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LITERATURE.

Le Secret du Roi: correspondance secrète de Louis XV. avec ses agents diplomatiques (1752-1774). Par le duc de Broglie. (Paris: Calmann Lévy.)

The King's Secret. By the Duc de Broglie. Being the Secret Correspondence of Louis XV. with his Diplomatic Agents, from 1752 to 1774. (Cassell, Petter & Galpin.)

Some people have been astonished at the romantic title which M. de Broglie has given to a purely historical work. They had not yet read the book in question; otherwise they would have recognised that this title has the twofold advantage of faithfully indicating the kind of interest to be looked for in the work, and of reproducing the very name by which contemporaries designated the secret correspondence. The subject dealt with by the Duc de Broglie is not entirely novel to those who recall a publication of M. Bontaric's* in 1866. This publication obtained more than a mere antiquarian success; some writers took occasion from it to attempt a rehabilitation of Louis XV., to magnify his personal aims and policy, and to throw on his Ministers the exclusive responsibility for the disasters and disgraces of his reign. Whatever may be thought as to the legitimacy of this reaction against current opinion, M. Bontaric's volume only gave us the least interesting portion of the secret correspondence, the king's orders and replies, while it is only from the correspondence of his agents that a just idea can be formed of the organisation, duration, and importance of the secret diplomacy. M. de Broglie found a portion of these documents in his family archives, for one of his ancestors, the Comte de Broglie, was the soul of the secret diplomacy; the others he has discovered in the Archives of Foreign Affairs, at the War Office, in the D'Aiguillon papers, of which the Marquis de Chabrilan is now the fortunate possessor. Thanks to these extensive researches, M. de Broglie has been enabled to speak the last word on a subject which had remained mysterious even after M. Bontaric's publication. If his friends regret the leisure which the course of politics has placed at his disposal, all his readers will congratulate themselves on the use which he has made of that leisure to the advantage of history and letters.

The affairs of Poland were the origin and never ceased to be the chief object of the secret diplomacy. But, the Polish Question

being intimately connected with the general system of French policy, this diplomacy was not conducted exclusively, as might be supposed, between its chiefs at Paris and its agents in Poland, but included correspondents in other countries, especially at the minor Courts of Europe. It was purely as a means of serving a system of general policy that it was regarded by him whose life was so closely associated with this diplomacy that it would be impossible to describe the one without writing a biography of the other. When in 1752 the Comte de Broglie, then in the full ardour of youth and ambition, was called upon to further the private views of the king with regard to Poland, it was as Ambassador at the Court of Augustus III., and with a secret mission to aggrandise French influence in Poland, and to pave the way for the candidature of the Prince de Conti. But the interests of the latter were very speedily sacrificed to a plan, at once more comprehensive and more practical, which consisted in strengthening the House of Saxony in Poland, and in diverting the Electorate from the English alliance in order to attach it to the cause of France. In the scheme devised by the Comte de Broglie, Prussia had a part to play: she was to keep England in check on the Continent and to deprive her of Hanover. Unfortunately, the Treaty of Neutrality, signed on January 18, 1756, between Frederick II. and Great Britain, speedily baffled the calculations of the Count, and at the same time overturned the whole system of European policy. The unforeseen invasion of Saxony by Frederick set the seal to the reconciliation between the Electoral House and the ambassador. The latter induced the feeble king not to abandon his States, and to concentrate his troops in a strong position, so as to stop the progress of the enemy, and to save Austria from a sudden aggression very like that of which, under almost identical circumstances, she was to be the victim a century later, in 1866. Some time later the Count, passing through Vienna on his return to his post, found the Court and people in the utmost consternation at the defeat of Prague and the siege of that city. He knew the ground on which the fate of the Austrian monarchy was to be decided from having served there under his father's command; he gave fresh courage to the dispirited, offered useful advice, and shared in the honour of the battle of Kolin, which saved Prague and Austria. We are a long way here, as may be seen, from the secret correspondence, and the following chapter ("Secret Diplomacy in the Army") does not go far toward recalling us thereto; for, though the Comte de Broglie from the heart of Germany, whither he accompanied his brother as chief of the staff, never ceased to superintend it, its interest grows singularly dim beside that of the battles of Bergen and Minden. The correspondence did not cease even during the exile of the two brothers, but it was not again the chief business, the most serious anxiety, of the Count until it became a means of extortion in the hands of the Chevalier d'Eon, and until the arrest of Dumouriez and Fabvier all but threw it into those of the Duc

d'Aiguillon. These two episodes are the most entertaining in a book which is entertaining from one end to the other. Louis XV. never thought seriously of giving a king to Poland, or even of strengthening the French party there; on the contrary, the idea of preparing a descent upon England, against the day on which war should break out afresh, had struck such firm root in his mind that he had taken into consideration the means of carrying it into effect. How was a notorious intriguer like D'Eon taken into partnership in an enterprise of such consequence? It was the Comte de Broglie who was guilty of the imprudence of selecting him. For several years the dignity of the King of France, the peace of two great States, were at the discretion of an adventurer, who was a singular mixture of folly and rascality, partly the dupe of his own inventions, but skilful enough to interest the middle and lower classes of London in his fate, and to obtain from a jury a true bill against the French ambassador for an alleged attempt to assassinate him. This affair, grave yet ridiculous as it was, had an exclusively comic ending. D'Eon was brought face to face with another adventurer, Caron de Beaumarchais, who for once found his master, for the document which he drew up to attest the transfer of papers and the engagements he had entered into with D'Eon show that he regarded the latter in a serious light.

Two other very curious personages are those whose arrest compromised the Comte de Broglie and made him appear an unauthorised intriguer. One, Fabvier, a clerk in the Foreign Office, a man of disorderly life, but possessing a thorough acquaintance with the state of the Powers of Europe, and a decided partisan of the old alliances of France; the other, who was to render the name of Dumouriez illustrious, and who meanwhile was practising diplomacy as an amateur, and without giving himself the least concern as to fidelity to his instructions; unequally treated by fortune, but both belonging equally to that class of restless and distinguished men to whom the Revolution was to assign such an important part. By a natural attraction these two personages, charged with wholly distinct missions, formed a combination, and conceived the bold project of effecting a change in their country's system of alliances. The execution of this plan was cut short almost before it had well begun, and consigned its authors to the Bastille. D'Aiguillon, who saw an opportunity of destroying all his enemies at a single blow, nominated a commission of enquiry; but the king took care that Sartines, lieutenant of police, who had been apprised of the secret, should be a member of this Commission, and he succeeded in restricting the investigation to the three prisoners directly concerned. The reader must be referred to the book itself for the details of this *imbroglio*, which in the long run only injured the Count, as it involved him in a vague suspicion of having abused the king's confidence by exceeding his instructions. His efforts to justify himself only brought upon him a fresh sentence of exile, and he was only able to obtain his rehabilitation from Louis XV.'s successor.

* *Correspondance secrète inédite de Louis XV. sur la politique étrangère avec le comte de Broglie, Tercier, etc.* (Paris: Plon.)

The new king went no further. He thought, no doubt, that the secret mission fulfilled by the Count for the late king had rather compromised than served the interests of the monarchy, or perhaps the queen, prejudiced against the prime mover in the secret diplomacy, deprived him of the reward which seemed only due to services equally prolonged and disagreeable. It is time to ask why the Comte de Broglie never declined a mission which, without being of use to the country, injured his own personal interests. He certainly had no difficulty in recognising that the king was merely seeking an amusement in all this mysterious diplomacy, rather than the means of preparing the ground for a policy more intelligent and more spirited than that of his Ministry. But he no doubt cherished to the end the illusion that Louis XV. would one day reward in him the devoted and discreet confidant of his secret thoughts, and would summon him to take the official management of foreign affairs. But the king would by no means deprive the secret correspondence of him who was its very soul, who gave it by the boldness of his views its chief attraction in his eyes. Little did the monarch care that a man of talent with a future before him was wasting his strength in a barren intrigue, and that he was excluded by ministerial hostility from posts in which he might have done good service to the country. Circumstances had marked him out to play the first part in the comedy with which the monarch was fain to amuse himself, and the sovereign had no notion of replacing him by a substitute. He did not even think that there was due from him to the Count a word of encouragement, and hope. The author has not concealed, he could not conceal, the odious selfishness of the prince; but he has not always been so explicit as he might be on the subject of his intelligence. "A childish king," he says in one place of Louis XV. Certainly this is plain enough, and we believe that the phrase is no more than strictly just. But why has not M. de Broglie stuck to it? Why does he sometimes speak of the enlightenment, the sagacity of the king, opposing these qualities to his weakness and immorality? The notes quoted by the author would suffice to attest the confusion that reigned in the royal mind, and to show that Louis XV.'s intellect was as feeble as his character. I think we may perceive here and elsewhere that the author, compelled to pass a severe judgment on a régime which cost France her colonial empire and her influence in Europe, has sought to do so with all the reticence and reserve compatible in a certain degree with historical truth, because, after all, this régime has the merit in his eyes of not being a democracy. Yet another reason, easy to be guessed, has prevented his remarking how undignified was the complaisance of the Comte de Broglie in lending himself to the royal caprice; the bourgeois morality of our time would scarcely be as indulgent. If the Count sincerely believed himself bound by his duty as a subject to play the ridiculous and unworthy part assigned him by the king, it must be admitted that this heroism of servility was scarcely fitted to form characters or to impose fixed limits on

the arbitrary power of the sovereign. It is doubtless in obedience to the same feeling of respect, we may almost say of filial piety, toward the *ancien régime* that M. de Broglie relates without comment the means employed to prevent the discovery of the "king's secret," after the arrest of the Count's secretary, and D'Eon's courier. The lieutenant of policetampering with seals, carrying off and altering papers which were before the courts of justice, a Governor of the Bastille violating judicial secrecy, and all this in complicity with an ex-ambassador and a superior official of the Foreign Office—such is the edifying spectacle which M. de Broglie's narrative brings before our eyes. Of course the historian is not bound to stigmatise every crime or every abuse which he makes known. Yet the author who informs us that traditions of foreign policy are so wholly forgotten in our days that no instructions are given to ambassadors, and who points out, not without wit and reason, instances of the tender consideration shown by the humanitarian philosophy of the eighteenth century toward the abuses of force committed by its crowned favourites, almost owed us, I think, an appreciation of the facts which show us the course of justice suspended and exalted personages betraying their duties.

But we would not have our readers believe that M. de Broglie has often yielded to the suggestions of ill-humour, or that he has carried his indulgence for the policy and government of Louis XV. to the verge of blindness. When he says in his Preface that his book has no relation to those matters with which his name has been recently associated, he is almost entirely correct. If he has exaggerated the talents of the Comte de Broglie, if he has closed his eyes to the want of dignity, the taste for intrigue, which mar so many fine qualities in his hero's character—defects which are rendered the more striking by their contrast with the high-minded and resigned attitude of the Marshal—he has enabled his readers to understand perfectly the absolute nullity of our foreign policy during the last twenty years of the reign of Louis XV. His work is, accurately speaking, of greater interest than importance, as the existence of the secret diplomacy was known, and as that diplomacy had absolutely no influence on events. But the very imperfection of our knowledge only stimulated curiosity; henceforth that curiosity has abundant material for its complete satisfaction. M. de Broglie's high qualities—the subtlety and ingenuity of his mind, his style easy, bright, ever happy in the choice of terms, and reminding us less of a professional author than of an accomplished man of the world—were well employed in unravelling a complicated intrigue of personages and incidents. Finally, we must not forget that this intrigue is played out amid events of the utmost consequence, which has allowed the author to widen his sphere, and to make excursions into the general history of Europe which are always full of interest.

It only remains to add that the translation is of exceptional excellence. The English is thoroughly idiomatic, and gives little sign of its derivation from a French original. It

would have been better, perhaps, not to talk of François I. and Henri III. At all events, the rule which leaves these names in their native forms should have given us August III. and Friedrich II. in the case of German sovereigns.
G. FAGNIEZ.

The Divine Legation of Christ. By the Rev. T. W. Fowle, M.A., Author of "The Reconciliation of Religion and Science." (C. Kegan Paul & Co.)

THIS is emphatically a popular work, a work of *Aufklärung*, which speaks the thoughts of many minds in a terse and trenchant form. Few perhaps will agree with Mr. Fowle on every point; we are only just beginning the historical study of the Bible, and must expect to be often divided in opinion. Mr. Fowle, moreover, is a born iconoclast, and his impetuosity does not always allow him to give a fair consideration to the views of opponents; Robertson, of Brighton, would have had a better chance of success.

The "idols" of popular theology against which the author lifts up his hand are these two:—1. That the doctrine of "endless torments" was sanctioned by Jesus Christ; and 2. That a believer in "Evolution" cannot retain his faith in the essential traditional facts of Christianity. In opposition to the first he maintains that the "Divine Legation" (applying Warburton's phraseology) or (in J. S. Mill's language) the "Unique Commission" of Jesus Christ has its most striking proof in His careful abstinence from dogmatising on the "future world;" in contradiction to the second, that Christianity needs to be combined with Evolution to afford a sufficient explanation of the mysteries of life.

"To attempt that task now," he eloquently exclaims, "when the old order is changing but not departed . . . , when the spirit of the age is collecting itself for mighty enterprises in tendencies yet obscure and impulses not yet intelligible even to itself, would be an undertaking rash and impossible indeed. I may perhaps live to see it done, so swiftly do the ages move; but I am content to have lived long enough to know that, sooner or later, done it must and will be, according to the good pleasure of God" (pp. 271-2).

I must confess, however, that the passage which has pleased me best, and which, in the manner of Joubert, I should like to cut out and bind up with certain pages of other greater Apologists, is that which occupies the last four pages, beginning with the words:—"May it not then very probably occur to the average thinking man to ask himself why he should imperil his peace of mind in such a quarrel?" and, with a frankness worthy both of honour and imitation, accepting what many think the incoherent title of a Christian Evolutionist (comp. Eph. iv., 13).

As an historical student of the Bible, I often differ widely from Mr. Fowle. I do not see that either the Old Testament or the Messianic teaching of our Lord preserves such a profound silence respecting the "future world." Mr. Fowle, it is true, carefully limits his statement as to the Old Testament. It is of the monuments of the period from the time of Moses to the Captivity that he says, "a strict and unbroken silence is maintained concerning the

future life." But this is surely not to the point. The most important part of the Old Testament is (it seems to me) of post-Captivity origin. The pre-Captivity writers were hampered in many ways by the social and political limitations of their time. The post-Captivity writers had not only the advantage of (as Kuenen says) fuller developments, or (as Delitzsch) fuller revelations, but that of assimilating those doctrines which were capable of being assimilated from other (not God-forsaken) nations. Is it reasonable to doubt that Jesus Christ interpreted the earlier parts of the Old Testament in the light of the later ones? Now, if it be true that the Captivity and post-Captivity writers "embraced within their mental scope those unknown regions called by us Heaven and Hell," can we doubt that Jesus Christ did so likewise? Mr. Fowle, then, seems to me to err in ignoring the post-Captivity writers. He errs, perhaps, in a still more fatal way by his conception of the Messianic Judgment. I grant him that earth is to be the scene of the Judgment, and earth the seat of the Messianic empire; but is it not, according to the Biblical tradition, a regenerated earth which is referred to, and is not this regenerate earth nearly tantamount to what the traditional orthodoxy means by heaven? And, further, granting that the language of Christ is more this-worldly (if we may coin the term) than that of popular theologians, is there not in the New Testament itself an unforced tendency towards the popular doctrine, which goes far to justify the latter (unless, indeed, we are prepared to snap the thread of Biblico-theological development)? Mr. Fowle loses no opportunity of disparaging the traditional orthodoxy by the epithets "savage" and "pagan." Applied in this unqualified way, these epithets seem to me as unfair as they must be to some readers offensive. I am far from accepting every statement of Mr. Fowle's with regard to the Old Testament (*e.g.*, I do not think the early Israelites were so incurious, nor do I admit Dr. Arnold's theory of prophecy); but, if he errs, he errs in good company. On the New Testament, in spite of many excellent remarks, I think him often somewhat misleading, partly for the reason already mentioned, partly from a modernism of feeling which spoils the purity of his exegesis. How strange is it, for instance, to read that Gehenna means "the darkness of unredeemed humanity;" and that "he who after he has killed has power to cast into Gehenna" is the *διάβολος*! But I do not presume to subject Mr. Fowle's burning words to a cold analysis. I heartily subscribe to his protest against the persistent misreading of the parables owing to the cross-lights of modern theology.

To sum up, the book challenges contradiction at almost every turn. However successful against an illiterate orthodoxy, it offers many weak points to a well-trained assailable, and its philosophical point of view will strike many who sympathise religiously with the author with a disagreeable surprise. But Mr. Fowle has shown elsewhere that he is perfectly capable of maintaining his boldly chosen position.

T. K. CHEYNE.

Wild Flowers. By Sarah Grant Franz. (Macmillan.)

WE have heard of many odd reasons for publishing books, but rarely of an odder one than that which seems to have determined the appearance of these *Wild Flowers*. Thirty years ago, it seems, Mrs. Franz submitted them, or some of them, to Lord Macaulay, and received in return a very kindly but decidedly unfavourable criticism. The critic, indeed, with that amiable desire to sweeten the bitter draught which, under such circumstances, most people feel, informed his correspondent that "four-fifths of Chalmers' *Collection of British Poets* consisted of verses far inferior to hers," and this, though scarcely as high praise as it looks, has apparently decided Mrs. Franz, after thirty years' reflection, to publish the volume. She has appended thereto one of those appeals *ad misericordiam criticorum* which are not unfrequent with poets of a certain class who do not seem to consider what an exceedingly bad compliment they are paying to those whom they address. The request put into other words amounts to this:—"Be so kind as not to do your duty; don't say what you think, and I shall be very much obliged to you."

Truth compels the confession that we can find little that is favourable to say of *Wild Flowers*. The verse is of an inoffensive kind, and deals generally with amiable feelings and pleasant materials. But three samples from three different poems will give some idea of its stamp. The first is in a higher key than is usual with the author:—

"What is more touching than a noble mind?
What more disgusting than a heart that's base?
Who this vast difference would think to find
In those belonging to the selfsame race?"

The second is from an address to George Sand:—

"The darling little Marguerite
Upon a bank I spied;
Of thee so emblematical
Among my flowers I tied."

The third attracts us chiefly from its resemblance to the famous "Lines by a Person of Quality":—

"Tones of sweetest, softest measure
Woven into tuneful song,
Earth's delusive golden treasure,
Waking joy to joy's gay throng."

Having given specimens of Mrs. Franz at nearly her worst, let us now represent her at quite her best:—

"I'll bring to thee the thoughts that flow
From pure and grateful love,
I'll bring my heart's deep homage too,
If that my truth may prove.
I have no gold, no pearl, to bring,
Nor any kind of gem,
Nor e'en the flowers that deck the spring,
To thee, the queen of them.
But what nor gold nor pearl can buy
Nor power of earth control,
Save that which dwells within thine eye—
I'll bring thee, love, the soul."

Readers will now be fairly able to judge whether or no Macaulay did injustice to eighty in the hundred of the constituents of the late Mr. Chalmers.

To us, we must confess, the most interesting thing in the book is a literary puzzle contained in Lord Macaulay's letter. He speaks of "those great masters of the art

[of poetry] of whom no age or country has produced many, of whom England cannot at this moment be said to possess one, of whom in all Christendom there are not six." Now, this was written in December 1850, just after Wordsworth's death. Can anybody enumerate the five foreign poets living in 1850 whom Macaulay was likely to think so far superior to all our then living English poets as to deserve the name of great masters, which he refused to the living occupants of the home Parnassus? We own that we cannot, for it must be remembered that to French verse, which was even then tolerably fertile in great names, Macaulay was never partial. Students of comparative poetry may amuse themselves in their spare moments by drawing up lists of competitors for the honour.

GEORGE SAINTSBURY.

Invasions of India from Central Asia. (R. Bentley & Son.)

THE author of this work has withheld his name, and it is well; for the only repute his production is likely to obtain is not desirable. The work has been called forth by the circumstances of the time, but it does not answer to its title. Two invasions of India and two only are described—the last and successful invasion of Baber from Afghanistan, and that of Nadir Shah from Persia. No notice is taken of Baber's abortive attempts. He who would look for any military information in this work, any account of the strength of the invading armies, their line of march or their strategy, will be signally disappointed. The account of Baber's invasion is made up of a succession of extracts and a poor summary of that conqueror's own Memoirs. For Nadir Shah's invasion the author has relied on Dow and the *Lettres édifiantes*, being either ignorant or heedless of the other works which describe the life and campaigns of that ruthless conqueror.

The greater part of the book consists of a romantic account of Noor Mahal, the long reign of Aurangzeb (in which there was no invasion), the rise of the British Power in India, and the English invasion of Kabul in 1839. Had these chapters been well and intelligently written a reader might have given a passing grumble at having them set before him under a false name, and have dismissed them with some satisfaction. But they are not well written, and, indeed, the author shows but scanty qualifications for the work he has undertaken. It is manifest at a glance that he is no Oriental scholar, and that he has a very restricted knowledge of the European writers who have dealt with the subject he has in hand. He copies literally from his authorities, without any attempt to assimilate the spelling of the names, and without any observation on discordant statements. In the Preface we find "Mamood of Ghuzni;" in page 70 he is "Mahmoud of Ghuzni," and it is said that this conqueror "made thirty inroads into the rich, level, unwarlike land of Hindustan" "by the Koorum valley." This last statement is probably owing to newspaper reading, for it would be difficult to find authority for it. Historians differ as

to the number of Mahmoud's invasions: some make twelve, others seventeen, but here they are increased to thirty. A short account of them would be curious. The term "unwarlike" is one which Mahmoud's historians did not use, nor is it applicable to the fierce defenders of Somnath, or the men who fell in the many desperate battles with the invader. Again, in the Preface, Ahmad Shah Abdali, the Afghan invader of India, is mentioned as "Abdulla, a Turcoman;" in page 223 he is "the Afghan King of Kabul, Abdalla (the Douranee)." Had the writer only consulted such a well-known book as Elphinstone's he would have found that the invader did not bear the Arab name he has given him, though the name of his Afghan tribe was Abdali.

The most curious feature of this amazing book is the credulity displayed by the author, for it must be supposed that he has met with some foundation for his extraordinary statements, and has not simply imagined them all. Delhi is certainly an old city, but here we are told that "Delhi for three thousand years had been a great city: it was contemporaneous with Nineveh and Babylon." Of the Rajpoots it is said that their "ancestors can boast of an antiquity which was old when Greece and Rome existed. They gave civilisation to Egypt and Babylon." Of them also it is said, "The worship of the Rajpoot, like that of the Vedas, is sun-worship." Orientalists will be surprised to hear that "the poems of Chund, containing 100,000 stanzas, have been translated into English by Colonel Tod." Nizam ud din Aulia, the great Mohammedan saint, "was supposed to be the founder of the Thugs, possibly to have been connected with the Old Man of the Mountain, the head of the assassins." "All Europeans are Franks in the East or Feringhee (Varangians, from the Varangian guard at Constantinople, in the time of the Eastern Emperors)." Here the author has got hold of a fact, but does not know how to use it. Even in simple matters there is a want of accuracy: thus Baber's son Kamran is called "Baber's brother," and there are such valuable pieces of information as the statement that the "Saracenic cement is as hard as iron, and this is the reason of its stability." But it would be a waste of space and of the reader's time to enter further into this worthless book. The work has, however, one recommendation. It has a Preface which is sufficient to deter anyone moderately well informed from proceeding farther.

JOHN DOWSON.

Wild Life in a Southern County. By the Author of "The Gamekeeper at Home." (Smith, Elder & Co.)

It was with some trepidation that we opened this volume. The author achieved a great success with his first book, and a second, especially in the same matter, is proverbially hazardous. But a glance was reassuring. It manifests the same sympathy with the woodland creatures, the same poetic appreciation of the lightest moods that sweep across the face of nature, the same power of interesting a reader in the commonest facts of country life. The pos-

session of these faculties argues no ordinary genius. Day after day country dwellers walk among the woods and by hedgerow and stream without noticing that the manner of life and habits of their denizens indicate any special spheres of thought or interest for vacant minds. They are roused, indeed, should a fowlsort or a strange bird cross their path; but this, in the nature of things, happens seldom. All at once this unknown writer plucks from the wayside euphrasy and with it purges their sight. By nothing more uncommon than keen powers of observation and a pleasant style he suddenly changes the whole aspect of the country for his readers. Their rambles are henceforth instinct with novelty, so that a walk round the garden or a visit to the neighbouring coppice discloses a new world of interest to which they marvel that their eyes were so long sealed. Surely this transfiguring magical power, possessed by so few yet eagerly welcomed by so many, this revelation of beauty and wonder in common things, is nothing less than genius, insight vigorously exercised upon its special objects.

The plan of this book is of the simplest. The author has made himself thoroughly acquainted with every natural sight and sound of a West-country parish, situated, as internal evidence shows, somewhere on the skirts of Salisbury Plain. Beginning at the highest point of the downs by an ancient earthwork, he takes his reader down the hillside hedge to the brook which wells out of the chalk, and so to an old-fashioned farmhouse, describing meanwhile with a few pleasant touches the animal and vegetable life of these localities. The garden and orchard with its wood-pile, the ash-copse beyond, the home-field and rookery, furnish materials for several delightful chapters. The birds, rabbits, and commoner reptiles contribute more anecdotes. At length the course of wild life flows into the retired lanes, overhung with big elms, which terminate in the village. The old church, the quaint thatched houses, the very stiles in the meadows, afford texts for keen remarks on human life, its monotony, yet its intense interest if regarded with a sympathetic eye. Scraps of folk-lore, rustic superstitions, traditions of royal visits and the like, most of them resting on no historical base yet found universally in country villages, are skilfully inserted to diversify the existence of humbler creatures. The result is a charming book, of the kind men thrust into their pockets and dream over at the edge of the copse overlooking a summer prospect, or by the hazel hedge when the nightjar's chirring soothes the evening after a sultry day. Such a book, however, is a favourite at the chimney-corner as well. By a subtle law of association, when the midnight storm rages without, its sunny pages within call up spring meadows, blue almost as the heavens above with wild hyacinths, the trout stream winding through its waving sedges, all the stir and glow of summer. In this volume a series of idyllic pictures from English home-life is painted in tender colours, like the subdued harmonies of an autumnal landscape by Fripp. Or rather it is one delicious idyll of the country, abounding in delicate touches which delight

by their truthfulness: the flight of a lark, for instance—which has not been excelled by Jeremy Taylor's famous words—the magpie's jaunty walk, the goldfinches' delighted bursts of song, the gambols of rabbits watched from a bank above them. The grace and delicacy of these pictures are unrivalled. A man must know country life very well not to be taught some new phase of it by this writer. He notes, with a quickness worthy of Thoreau, how squirrels, when disturbed on the ground, invariably run up the opposite side of a tree to the beholder; the old-world plants round a farm-house; the teasel's leaves, our English pitcher-plant; the struggles of a toad on being seized and swallowed by a snake—though he does not touch on the agonies of a mouse, by the way, when seized before being swallowed by a toad, of which we know an instance. Nothing is too common, nothing too humble, for him to point out its beauty or its adaptation to the spot in which it is found. He looks at nature through a poetic haze which enhances the meanest landscape, and yet not a line of poetry is quoted from beginning to end of the book. His recitals unconsciously turn to poetry in the reader's mind. In the same way he makes a multitude of exact observations and studies on the twenty-six species of birds, two bats, eight quadrupeds, and four reptiles which constantly haunt his orchard, without plaguing the reader with a single scientific Latin name duly inserted in brackets. We are permitted to know the cuckoo, redbreast, and lark as childhood and fairy-tales know them, and they sing twice as sweetly to us, as we are not bidden to notice the exact musical notes of their melodies, only told to abandon ourselves to the full enjoyment of sunshine with no *arrière pensée* would we know its ample blessedness. "Put away all thought of time; often in striving to get the most value from our time, it slips from us, as the reality did from the dog that greedily grasped at the shadow."

With all the truthfulness to nature of our old favourite Gilbert White, this book is utterly dissimilar to the *Selborne*. It looks on the objective side of the country, enlivening the narrative by touches of personal humour, such as those which dignify the sluggish movements of Timothy Tortoise. This author views the country as coloured by his own subjectivity, and with pensive step and modern habits of introspection discerns a new grace in its ordinary sights. Like Chaucer, he especially insists on the joyousness of all bird and animal life. Every here and there we fall in with an acute observation which at once commends itself to the country-lover. Thus he notes that in an old-fashioned garden the enjoyment of early spring sunshine behind the shelter of yew hedges is "somewhat akin to the sense of convalescence after a weary illness;" again: "when once the weather has become thoroughly settled either to dry or wet, no signs of alteration are of any value, true as they may be at other times." He remarks, too, on the fondness of farmers and country-folk in general for a gun and a horse, while very few of them care for fishing. The fly-fisher's rod and theories are alike too delicate for their rougher tastes. Everyone knows

that labourers measure their time by the neighbouring fairs; this writer tells us of the dwellers in thatched cottages reckoning by periods of twenty years, which length of time a good covering of thatch ought to last. Much of the folk-lore which he introduces is common to every English district: the black dog which wanders at night; the elf-ridden horses found in the morning covered with foam and perspiration; the ghostly quarrymen or colliers knocking and cutting in response to the workmen's efforts; the cloud which signifies fine weather, shaped like the Archangel Michael (it is called Noah's Ark in Lincolnshire)—under one form or other these tales are told from Cornwall to the Border. When the author speaks of the country word for getting wet being "watchet," he must mean rather "wet-shod." He also appears to think that the term *forest* in a district shows that it was once covered with woodlands. The word itself does not necessarily imply solely a woody tract. A Scotch deer-forest has no trees; and Manwood defines a forest as being "a certain territory of woody grounds and fertile pastures for the king's princely delight and pleasure."

But, after all, the great charm of the book lies in its style. From a long comparison of a waggon to a ship the following may be taken as a specimen:—

"How many a man's life has centered about the waggon! As a child he rides in it as a treat to the hay-field with his father; as a lad he walks beside the leader, and gets his first ideas of the great world when they visit the market town; as a man he takes command, and pilots the ship for many a long, long year. When he marries, the waggon, lent for his own use, brings home his furniture. After a while his own children go for a ride in it, and play in it when stationary in the shed. In the painful ending the waggon carries the weak-kneed old man in pity to and from the old town for his weekly store of goods, or mayhap for his weekly dole of that staff of life his aged teeth can hardly grind; and many a plain coffin has the old waggon carried to the distant churchyard on the side of the hill. It is a cold spot—as life, too, was cold and hard; yet in the spring the daisies will come and the thrushes will sing on the bough."

Or consider this picture of an old-world farm-house, such as George Eliot might have painted for Mrs. Tulliver or Sister Pullet:—

"The house has somehow shaped and fitted itself to the character of the dwellers within it: hidden and retired among trees, fresh and green with cherry and pear against the wall, yet the brown thatch and the old bricks subdued in tone by the weather. This individuality extends to the furniture; it is a little stiff and angular, but solid, and there are nooks and corners—as the window-seat—suggestive of placid repose: a strange opposite mixture throughout of flowery peace and silence, with an almost total lack of modern conveniences and appliances of comfort—as though the sinewy vigour of the residents disdained artificial ease."

Every lover of the country will delight in this English pastoral. It does not possess the uniformity of subject which characterised *The Gamekeeper at Home*; but its variety constitutes its charm. Like our own lanes and hedgerows, every turn discloses a distinct beauty.

M. G. WATKINS.

The Bedouin Tribes of the Euphrates. By Lady Anne Blunt. Edited, with a Preface and some Account of the Arabs and their Horses, by W. S. B. In Two Volumes. With Map and Sketches by the Author. (Murray.)

THE author shows herself in these volumes to be an accomplished horsewoman, a musician, a courageous and accustomed traveller; but there is scarcely a trace of the poetic feeling which might have been looked for from one who can boast the lineage of Byron. The pages of Homer are not more remarkable than those of Lady Anne Blunt for the absence of any description of natural scenery. She and her husband, the editor, have every taste and qualification for the life of the desert; and very few indeed are the travellers who have seen so much of desert life in Arabia. Yet the book is not even a description of desert life. It is, in fact, a very unpretentious journal of dealings and association with Bedouin tribes of the Euphrates and of the Syrian Desert.

Had the author been as clever in word-painting as she is with her pencil, the work might have been far more interesting. We have read every page of these volumes, and we have not met with a single literary sketch, even in outline. There is no attempt to reproduce the interesting scenes in which the author and her husband had part. This is very disappointing. The book will not compare with Mr. Grattan Geary's account of his ride along the Tigris line in point of interest; and yet Lady Anne Blunt's journey is far more strange and adventurous. Lady Anne's work is at times spirited, always unaffected, and in its utter simplicity resembles Bedouin life. But the life of the desert, though simple, is never wanting in the accompaniment of grandeur, and of that there is not a trace in her volumes. We have placed the defects of her work foremost, and have no doubt that the first thought of most readers will coincide with our own. It is not likely that this book will have a very great popularity, and we have pointed to the reason. Yet it is quite certain that if success in publication were awarded for proficiency in travel, Lady Anne Blunt's work would pass through many editions. As it is, it possesses intrinsic value which should not be overlooked. We have not met with any equally extensive experience of Bedouin life; nor are we prepared to dispute the editor's claim that these volumes are "the first attempt at giving a comprehensive view of desert life and desert politics."

Those who, from their childish recollection of "picture-books," have always associated the Bedouin with his horse will have the connexion confirmed by the study of these pages. Yet with a difference; for Lady Anne is too scientific to confound the individual with the genus, and, with, we believe, only one or two exceptions, always writes of the animals ridden by Bedouins, and by the travellers, as "mares." We venture to think there is no noun so often printed in these volumes as the title of the female horse. In saying some kind words for camels, Lady Anne confesses that she loves horses, and if her writings should ever

reach the country of the Hounhynhms they will have a great success. Early in the first volume, Lady Anne shows how she can describe an Arab mare:—"She was not remarkably handsome, being ewe-necked and having a strange, wild head; but her depth of girth and her long, muscular hind-quarters gave promise of what she really possessed in a wonderful degree, speed and staying power." As to Lady Anne's courage as a traveller, that rare and excellent qualification for such experience as hers might easily be overlooked by any thoughtless reader, for nowhere does she suggest terror, though such a life among the Bedouins of the Arabian desert is in reality full of danger. The travellers are approaching Deyr, on the Euphrates, and by the way receive news of Arab hostilities, but their march is not stopped. On the contrary, they think of pushing on because "it may be an excellent opportunity for buying horses, as after the battle property will change hands, and is very likely to be sent to the hammer." Nor is Lady Anne Blunt a luxurious traveller. The princess who complained of the roseleaf beneath her couch would have thought the following a catalogue of but poor comfort:—"Although the nights are cold, we do not suffer, as we have plenty of things—first an oilskin on the ground, then a Turkey carpet, then each a cotton quilt folded double, to serve as bed."

The buildings on the Euphrates which Lady Anne Blunt calls "forts" are, we believe, post-houses, known in Persia as "chapar-khanahs," consisting "of a square courtyard enclosed by a mud wall twelve feet high, and without other opening to the outer world than a single gateway. Inside are low rooms along three sides, the flat tops of which make a terrace, where there is generally an upper chamber like a box." Such buildings are common all over Western Asia, and "the box," or "balah-khanah," is generally the resort of the most distinguished visitors in this mixture of mud-fortress and hotel. Bedouin meals are not nice. Bedouins, Lady Anne tells us, cut up their sheep "independently of anatomical construction—bones, meat and all mangled and massed together," butter being "plastered round the mass." At Lady Anne's first experience of Bedouin cookery the middle of the dish was occupied by "the great fat tail of the sheep, a huge lump of tallow, with bits of liver and other nastiness near it." She and her husband made "a 'barmecide' meal," but when the dish reached less fastidious fingers, Lady Anne says that "a plate full of greaves would not have disappeared sooner in a kennel of hounds than this did among the hungry Jerifa." The author suggests a claim to have discovered the place where "Noah built his ark," because she saw one of those natural curiosities, a spring of bitumen, of which, however, several are known to travellers. Lady Anne not only identifies the spot because it is said of the ark that Noah "pitched it within and without with pitch," but for the much more odd reason that—

"This lower valley of the Euphrates is just the place where a great flood would have come, so that it is foolish, although it appears to be the

fashion, to put down the account of it in Genesis as fabulous. Noah, by the light of these springs at Hitt, is quite an historic personage, and the beasts he saved with him in the ark were, of course, his domestic animals, camels, sheep, donkeys, and perhaps horses."

This curious vindication of Biblical history is one of the few occasions on which Lady Anne writes of "horses;" generally she and her husband "trust to our mares to carry us out of the difficulty." The Arab remedy for sickness in a mare is not very intelligent:—"They prescribed many remedies, and tried two or three; first a rope was tied tight round the loins, then she was walked and run about, and then her tail was tied up with string, and lastly Ismaïl whispered a verse of the Koran into her ear. This seemed to do her good, and we started." Farther on the travellers passed "a nice pool of rain-water, where we watered our mares." Lady Anne Blunt admires, as every traveller must, the endurance of Arab horses. "The mares do their work in a marvellous manner, considering that they have to travel every day, and are only grass-fed."

Lady Anne and Mr. Blunt rode from Scanderoon to Bagdad, by the Euphrates Valley; then turning northwards, they rode along the Tigris to Sherghat and thence struck westward for the long ride over the desert to Beyrout, crossing the line of their Euphrates journey at Deyr. Not even at Palmyra will Lady Anne be tempted into giving us a specimen of her descriptive powers. Indeed, the nearest approach to a description in her work is that of a mare belonging to the Sheykh of the Gomussa, "a dark bay standing fifteen hands or over." It is no doubt very cleverly described, and, in the author's opinion, "would be worth a king's ransom, if kings were still worth ransoming." Lady Anne is one of very few travellers who have made acquaintance with that curious people—"the Sleb"—who seem to live the lives of animals of prey, "following the herds of gazelles as they migrate north and south. On these they live, making their food, their clothing, and their tents out of the creatures they catch or kill." It is said they came originally from India, and stayed in the desert. The author, always fertile in suggestions, thinks "it is quite possible that one of the tribes which left India and are now known as Bohemians, or gipsies, in Europe, may have stopped on the way and settled, if their wandering life can be called settling, in the desert."

Our estimate that the author and editor of this book are excellent travellers is strengthened by the good opinion they express of the people, which is the usual "note" of capable voyagers, as much as by their skill, nowhere perhaps more clearly shown than in the fact that at Damascus they sold the camels they had purchased at Bagdad "with a clear profit of fifteen shillings on each beast." Lady Anne pens a "defence of the camel," which, in point of temper and good sense, she places above the horse. At chapter xxiii. we are alone with Mr. Blunt, the editor, whose contribution is as valuable as it is modest. Mr. Blunt's work gives us the impression that if he would take the trouble

he could write a very useful book of travels. He finds in the Bedouins a hardy but not a long-lived race. "At forty their beards turn grey, and at fifty they are old men." Mr. Blunt doubts "if more than a very few of them reach the age of sixty." He speaks highly of their honesty; their marriage customs are the simplest, with the most facile power of divorce on either side, so that "the ill-assorted marriages generally end within a few months of their being contracted." In the last chapter, Mr. Blunt treats of "Horses;" and very learnedly he writes upon the animal to which he and Lady Anne are evidently much attached. Without following him into such recondite matters as the length of "the cannon bone" and the "letting down" of "hocks," we note his judgment that

"the only defect of the Arabian as a race-horse, compared with our own, is his small size. Inch for inch, there can be no question which is the faster horse. . . . If one could conceive an Arabian seventeen hands high, he could not fail to leave the best horse in England behind him. As it is, he is too small to keep stride with our racehorses."

Mr. Blunt is, however, convinced "that the pure-bred Arabian possesses extraordinary powers of endurance." In Mr. Blunt's "postscript" there are two remarks which are of much practical value. With regard to a Euphrates Valley Railway, he says that the line

"must pass either along the actual valley, or the table-land above it. In the first case, the flooding of the river and its frequent changes of bed will have to be considered; while, in the second, an immense amount of cutting and bridging will be required, for the whole of the desert bordering the valley is a network of wadys and ravines."

The second is that "the only practical scheme for improving the communications between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf is the establishment of a line of steamers on the Euphrates." Mr. Blunt perhaps has not examined the line of the Tigris, or he would have found that it is more suitable both for a railway and for steam navigation. But a railway needs much time and very much money, whereas both the Tigris and the Euphrates might within twelve months be navigated by a regular service of steamers of light draught and suitable construction with great advantage to British commerce and to the people of Western Asia.

ARTHUR ARNOLD.

Savonarola: his Life and Times. By W. R. Clark, M.A. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.)

THE modest claim put forward by Mr. Clark, that "he has done his best to understand the history and character of the man whom he has undertaken to describe, and has endeavoured to tell the story simply and plainly to ordinary English readers," is one which will be readily conceded. His narrative is mainly derived from the able work of Prof. Villari, which appeared in 1861, and has since been translated into English by Mr. Leonard Horner; although not characterised by any high literary merit, it is clear and full, sensible in its criticisms, and fairly candid in its conclusions. The best modern source of information, before the

appearance of Prof. Villari's work, was the *Life* by M. Perrens, published in 1853. M. Perrens seems to have had considerable difficulty in making up his mind as to Savonarola's real merits, and there is consequently a certain hesitancy in his judgments and a prudent reserve in the expression of his opinions which tends to inspire us rather with respect for the biographer than admiration of the Reformer.

Prof. Villari exhibits no such half-heartedness. His pages throughout are designed to vindicate the almost unparalleled heroism and moral grandeur of one who taught in the city where he now teaches, and espoused the same cause of liberty and patriotism of which he is himself a distinguished supporter. As Mr. Clark resigns himself, with but few exceptions, to the Professor's guidance, we are here presented with a study which places the great Reformer's whole career in the most favourable light and casts upon it the most romantic tints. The story of his early love (a somewhat doubtful legend) is accepted as unquestionable fact. The account given by Politian of his interview with Lorenzo de' Medici, when the latter was on his death-bed, is discarded for the more imposing and tragic story recorded by Burlamacchi, though Milman, with all the evidence before him, did not hesitate to characterise the latter as "an afterthought." The bewilderment and indecision that Savonarola betrayed when Piero's dastardly submission to Charles VIII. was followed by his expulsion from Florence only suggest the observation that the Reformer "was evidently oppressed by a painful sense of the gravity of the occasion." The somewhat vague and declamatory Ciceronian harangue which he delivered in the French camp is described as having been listened to by the king and his nobles as though spoken by "a prophet sent from God." In his account of the excesses of the *Piagnoni* under Savonarola's short supremacy, Mr. Clark will appear to many to have dealt somewhat too leniently with the reform party, though he vindicates his hero by observing that "in his opinions on these subjects he was neither better nor worse than his best contemporaries." He subjoins, however (p. 287), some excellent observations on the general impolicy of coercing public and social liberty, even with the best intentions.

In connexion, again, with Savonarola's relations to doctrine and theology, there is too great a tendency in Mr. Clark's treatment to throw a veil over their real character. He is candid enough to repudiate the notion of Rudelbach and Karl Meier, who could recognise in the Italian Reformer another and an earlier Luther; but he keeps the opposing evidence (especially that afforded in the treatise *The Triumph of the Cross*) too much in the background. In fact, Savonarola, like not a few others who stood on the threshold of the modern era, was a compound of contradictions. While his pulpit oratory was marked by a bold repudiation of the old scholastic method of "postillating," his treatise on the Government of Florence was a direct application of the monarchical theory of Thomas Aquinas. While insisting on the Scriptures as the chief, if not the only, source of doctrine, he

could (like Gregory the Great in his Commentary on the Book of Job) twist any passage into a designed and inspired allusion to the men and events of his own time—a practice which Mr. Clark seems but imperfectly to excuse when he says that “it was the manner of his day, and he adopted it on principle.” If too enlightened and too much of an Italian in his genius altogether to condemn the study of the fine arts, Savonarola was yet weak and credulous enough to give his sanction to the revival of trial by ordeal, a relic of paganism which a French bishop of the ninth century, the illustrious Agobard, had the sense and courage to condemn.

None of his biographers, indeed, seem to have dwelt with sufficient emphasis on the fact that the real cause of Savonarola's fall was the encouragement he gave to this baneful belief. He had asserted his possession of prophetic powers, and happy coincidence had favoured the popular acceptance of claims which it was difficult to disprove. But as soon as the Florentines beheld their prophet pusillanimously evading that ordeal of fire to which he had avowed himself ready to submit, their faith and their reverence were changed to contempt and derision. He fell; and in the clouds that gathered round him as he fell, his incontestable moral grandeur, his sanctity of life, his purity of motive, and his far-seeing statesmanship were for a time obscured. From that obscurity the research of the last quarter of a century has successfully redeemed them; but, even when taken at its best, the career of Savonarola is mainly a very notable experience in the history of enthusiasm—exhibiting, on the one hand, the legitimate function of that great passion in rousing and controlling popular feeling and sentiment; and illustrating, on the other, the perils that must necessarily follow when once it becomes a prey to self-delusion and calls in superstition as its ally.

J. BASS MULLINGER.

NEW NOVELS.

Blue and Green: or, the Gift of God. By Sir Henry Pottinger. In Three Volumes. (Chapman & Hall.)

Vizen. By the Author of “Lady Audley's Secret.” In Three Volumes. (J. & R. Maxwell.)

Marco Visconti. Translated from the Italian by A. D. In Three Volumes. (Charing Cross Publishing Company.)

My Friend and My Wife. By Henry James Gibbs. In Three Volumes. (S. Tinsley & Co.)

SIR HENRY POTTINGER has undertaken one of the most difficult of literary tasks in the book before us, further described on the title-page as “a Romance of Old Constantinople”—namely, that of writing an historical novel which shall make a far-distant and quite unfamiliar past live again and interest the modern reader. And, as we have had occasion to remark before, the exceptional brilliancy of Charles Kingsley's *Hypatia* has made success of this kind much less easy of attainment than ever. It is doing Sir Henry Pottinger no more than justice to

say that his romance is the best of the kind which has appeared since *Hypatia*; and if it fall short of that work in any respect, it is from no lack of ability, culture, and diligence, but merely because all these qualities united are necessarily unequal to the imaginative insight of a poet. The topic he has chosen is the strange and eventful history of Justinian and Theodora, while the “Blue and Green” of the chief title has reference to the rival factions of the Hippodrome, the *Veneti* and *Prasini*, whose competition in politics and theology was one of the greatest dangers to social order in the sixth century. The author declares that one of his aims has been to rehabilitate Theodora's character, at any rate as regards the latter part of her life, and notably in her conjugal relations with Justinian, and to maintain the thesis that not only was she, however degraded in her theatrical days, more sinned against than sinning even then, but that she is a real instance of genuine repentance, amendment, and purification in her whole subsequent conduct. It is known, of course, by all scholars, that the horrible profligacy attributed to her, almost unparalleled even in the annals of hetærisms, rests entirely on the anecdotes in the “Secret History” of Procopius, to which Sir Henry Pottinger declines to accord any credit. Herein he is supported by the judgment of the late Dean Milman, who brands it as “the basest and most disgraceful work in literature,” and as a “virulent libel,” whose insincerity is proved by its direct contradictions to its author's other published writings. On the whole, the history of the time has been carefully studied and adhered to, and its most famous personages—Justinian and Theodora themselves, John of Cappadocia, Hypatius, Belisarius and Antonina, Ecebolus the Tyrian—are represented on the canvas. The author has selected his episodes with much judgment, and has allowed himself but few liberties with the chronicles which supply him with the materials for his narrative; the most serious being his assignment of the first infatuation of Justinian for Theodora to the very beginning of her career, just before her appeal as an orphan suppliant to the generosity of the factions, instead of to the date of her return from Africa after disappearing from Constantinople in company with Ecebolus, and the softening of the reverses experienced by Belisarius in the Persian and Arabian war. And the only important anachronism is that he represents both Anastatius and Justinian as specifically claiming merely the Empire of the East; whereas the fact is that the Western Empire was finally extinguished early in the reign of Zeno, about eighteen years before Justinian was even born, so that the rulers of Constantinople claimed the obedience of the West as sole Emperors until long after their Caroling rivals had taken their places in Gaul and Italy. The third volume of *Blue and Green*, albeit containing a vivid description of the famous “Nika” revolt of the factions, is less successful than its predecessors, perhaps from being less of a romance and more of a summarised history, but partly, no doubt, because fidelity to truth obliges the author to acknowledge how far his hero and heroine

fell below the promise of their opening reign—how Theodora substituted the vices of greed, vindictiveness, and cruelty for those of her former career, and how Justinian did not exercise his great qualities impartially for the good of his subjects, but was their fiscal oppressor without being their defender against either foreign war or domestic turbulence. His likeness to Louis XIV. in wars, building, and theological fanaticism, and also in the manner in which he impressed the imaginations of those brought into contact with him, is a curious historical parallel which has not received the attention it deserves, and which has escaped our present author's notice in the scholarly Preface of his interesting book.

Vizen is a story in Miss Braddon's later and better manner, put together with but a small stock of incidents, and yet vivid and readable, with tokens of real hard work cropping out every now and then to show that the author does not rest on her natural facility of invention and diction, nor yet on her established popularity, as an excuse for ceasing to take pains and to lay in continually fresh supplies of reading for illustrative purposes. The little bits of learning are not always quite accurate, and are sometimes rather dragged in than brought in; but there is nothing visible of the audacious blundering in all departments of knowledge which gives such a ludicrous colour to the novels of some of her lady competitors. The present story is almost entirely restricted to the New Forest, save for one transfer of scene to Jersey; and Miss Braddon writes of the charming woodland scenery of Hampshire with evident local knowledge and strong personal interest. Her heroine, a generous, spoiled child, of quick temper, is very cleverly sketched and not overdrawn; and the manly, commonplace hero, with no bookish tastes, but not in the least Guy Livingstonish, is also a good portrait, though here and there his remarks are, not too shrewd, but a little too cultured to be quite in keeping. We recognise him better when remarking of a room newly done-up in the very last South Kensington high-art style, with high chocolate dado all round, that it looks as if they had run short of wall-paper, than when quoting Tennyson or using scraps of French. There is humour, too, in a gentleman carrying off his lady-love's unreadable Browningsque verses and handing them over to his private secretary to digest, analyse, and comment on, and then coming out with the criticism at first hand, and making all the running in consequence. And there is judgment in not overdoing the objectionable stepfather in the story, when it would have been easy to represent him as ill-using the wife whose fortune alone he sought, and squandering her income; whereas his selfishness is more enlightened and more natural as actually depicted. *Vizen* is not one of those books which either make or mar a reputation; but it is pleasantly readable, and, as we have said, shows tokens of honest pains spent in making it so.

Marco Visconti is simply Tommaso Grossi's well-known historical novel in an English dress. Grossi followed Manzoni, whom he acknowledged as his master, much as

G. P. R. James followed Walter Scott, and, truth to say, at very much the same distance. The book enjoys a considerable reputation in Italy, whose literature is not even yet rich in historical novels, though it possesses a few notable ones; but if Manzoni had written more, Grossi would be less esteemed. The era of the story is the stirring midst of the fourteenth century, when the famous warrior who gives it his name was a very remarkable figure, not unlike Henry of Guise two hundred years later; and Grossi has taken great pains to work contemporary history into his plot, as well as to give his readers graphic scenes from the daily life of the period, among which the riot in a church between the partisans of the rival Popes is, perhaps, the most vivid. But the story is thin and poor, with personages of little interest, and the reader remains quite unaffected by the tragedy which is intended to move the very depths of his nature to pity and regret. The consciousness that they are mere lay-figures in a costume painting never dies out, and while we look with appreciation on the happy rendering of this breastplate and that beaker, the human figures attract little observation. The translation is well done, and rarely shows the influence of foreign idioms, while there are some very respectable renderings of the verses which Grossi intercalated in his narrative.

My Friend and My Wife is a crude book, with a few occasional patches of merit, but on the whole is rather hard reading. The writer does not seem to have got his scheme clearly before him, and gets rather "mixed" in consequence. Take the title, for example. It clearly denotes that the book is autobiographical, and the persons named in it the belongings of the writer. But when we come to the story itself, it purports to be a narrative written by the hero's tutor, who is the "I" of the story, but who is not married at all; so that the second "my" of the title-page, if not the first also, applies to the hero, and ought to be "his." So again, it is not easy to make out the chronology. It is after Sir Robert Peel's death (which was in 1850), and before Pimlico was built, at least ten years earlier; it is before the establishment of competitive examinations in the Civil Service, and after the movement for the sanitary reform of London courts. Nor is the tale better managed. The hero is cast off by his father, a rich manufacturer, for refusing to bribe the officials who have the bestowal of Government contracts, and comes to great straits in consequence. But he has married the only and beloved child of a wealthy canon, who does not quarrel with his daughter because of her choice, and yet no penny of her fortune comes to them, nor does she ever think of applying to her father for help, though she does so to her brother-in-law. And whereas the hero's bosom-friend seduces the wife, and actually elopes with her, being barely stopped in time by the opportune arrival on the scene of the seducer's uncle, a fine old French Abbé, the pair come home again, and return to the old domestic footing of intimate acquaintanceship as if nothing had happened. To be sure, the gay Lothario goes off as a

missionary to Africa after a while: but that is a later arrangement. There are, as we have said, occasional scraps of better quality here and there in the story, and the writer can sometimes sketch a single scene or situation fairly enough, but he has neither constructive skill nor staying power; and the best thing in the narrative is the character of the hero's younger brother, always full of the noblest sentiments, but weak, self-deceiving, and egoistic, yielding to every temptation from lack of moral fibre, and spreading ruin round him as surely as if from deliberate villany.

R. F. LITLEDAL.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Quartermaster's Grace and other Poems. By Emily Pfeiffer. (C. Kegan Paul and Co.) This is a village idyl; the elements out of which the poem is wrought are few and simple; a Sunday afternoon in the little homestead of Quartermaster, a country lane, the hall with its avenue of stately trees, the church, and the organ filling the glimmering place with its volumes of harmony—these, and an English village maiden who finds through her gift of song the entrance to a higher, an ideal life, make up the material of this idyllic piece. The touch of the writer is delicate and true. Grace, Quartermaster's daughter, wearying of the monotony of the Sunday afternoon, vaguely desiring some larger, freer existence, and saved from the temptation of young Lord Claud's admiring gaze by the old organist's care for her musical gift, is a living figure. While her father is catechising the little ones, and her mother sits idle, bathing in the rest of the Sabbath, Grace suddenly appears:—

"Then through Quartermaster's house that was frail and small,

A flutter past, as a light foot-fall,
Sudden and swift as the unseen breeze
That sends a thrill through the stagnant trees—
Free as the flight of a bird o' the air—
From an upper chamber swept over the stair.
And lo in the frame of the door there stood
A girl in the flower of her maidenhood;
A flower that seemed to bloom too high
For the walls so straight and the roof so nigh;
A girl who carried a girl's unrest
In her seeking eyes and silent breast;
Lithe of limb and fair of face,
Whose presence seemed to flood the place."

Occasionally Mrs. Pfeiffer's instinct fails her. The word "Nirvana" is, of course, familiar to both the writer and her readers, but it is foreign to the tone of the poem; and the two concluding lines,

"From this true song of Grace it well may seem
That there is hope for maids that fall in dream,"

are an impertinence. The volume also contains "Madonna Dūnya," a poem of Russian peasant-life, already known to readers of the *Contemporary Review*, some sonnets, a villanelle (the only one of the exotic forms of verse recently cultivated for which Mrs. Pfeiffer has shown a liking), some songs, and translations from Heine. The translations are not more successful than similar attempts by other writers. There is something in Heine's verses which tempts one to the hopeless effort of reproducing them in English words. They admit, however, neither of loss nor addition; if anything be altered, if anything be inserted, if anything be omitted, they cease to be Heine's: their note is changed, their fragrance has departed. True success is impossible, and Mrs. Pfeiffer's failure does not discredit her skill. Neither Heine nor Mrs. Pfeiffer would have written

"How the image of the moon
Trembles in the wave's wild leaven;"

but the translator of Heine cannot do without a rhyme for "heaven." Yet an attempt to keep

close to the original is made, and this results in marring the poems which, if mere imitations, might perhaps have won the praise of being *belles infidèles*.

Records of the English Province of the Society of Jesus. By Henry Foley, S.J. Vol. IV. (Burns and Oates.) Father Foley has given us another volume of his curious and remarkable book, which adds so much to our knowledge of the English Roman Catholics, especially of the Jesuits. The same sturdy spirit ran through all. Year after year there were coming into England from beyond the sea priests specially trained to reconcile this country to their faith; while on this side of the Channel their arrival was eagerly anticipated, hiding-places were made to which they could rush at a moment of danger, and every provision was studied for their security and comfort. Some of them seem to have been as helpless and as simple as children, seeking almost to be caught; while others, emulating the serpentine wisdom, lived and worked on year after year, if they were captured at all. In many districts there seems to have been but little energy shown in putting the penal laws into force, especially in London, where the number of priests must always have been considerable. As a proof of this laxity we may instance the life of Henry Garnett, one of the three great Jesuits on the English Mission, which is given at some length in this volume. For twenty years he was the superior of the Order in this country, and was therefore an object of mark and continually exposed. With consummate prudence he preserved not only himself but many of his brethren also. And yet his chief residence was in London, and it would have been possible, we should think, to arrest him over and over again, if people had been so disposed. If the Powder Plot, as it was called, had not been attempted, Garnett might have died quietly in his bed. We do not intend to discuss the evidence which was thought sufficient to prove his complicity in it. But we do regret the cruel end of a man of the very highest intellectual acquirements and of the most commanding influence wherever he moved. After that of Garnett, the most interesting biographies in this volume are those of Fathers Oldcorne and Briant. There is, however, much sameness in the entire work. We have the same enthusiastic labours, and, we regret to say it, a uniformity in cruelty which throws shame upon the rulers who practised it. We must not forget, however, that it was the fatal Bull of Pius V., "Regnans in excelsis," which was the chief cause of this mischief. Roman Catholicism would probably have been tolerated by Elizabeth if the Pope had not committed that most serious and irrevocable mistake.

The Ancient British Church. By John Pryce. (Longmans.) There is no subject which of late years has suffered more from vigorous critical enquiry than the over-estimated importance of the British Church. It rests upon such a foundation of fable that every honest investigator cannot fail to assail it. Still it ought not to be undervalued. Mr. Pryce has had the advantage of reading the scholar-like works which have been written on this theme during the last few years, and has honestly abandoned much that has been hitherto believed by his compatriots. Still a work which has been crowned at the "National Eisteddfod of 1876," or any other year, would never have been thus honoured unless the Welsh trumpet had been somewhat loudly blown in it. We do not wish to be hard upon Mr. Pryce. We thank him for what he has said, and think that he has given us a pleasant volume, on which he has bestowed considerable pains. When this book reaches a second edition, the author would do well to omit what he has said about the Empress Helena being the daughter of "Coel Godebrog, King of Colchester" (p. 77), and to reconsider his statement as to the strength of the British Church at the end of the third century (p. 78). He is in error also when he calls Wilfrid

Archbishop of York (p. 245); and we cannot but smile when we are told that Augustine wrote "to Desiderium, Bishop of Vienne, and Syagrius, Bishop of Autun" (p. 221). Mr. Pryce quotes too many myths, and, although he discards much, we do not always learn how much he really adopts. He neglects almost entirely the evidence which is given in his favour by the old Welsh tombstones. We cannot agree with Mr. Pryce in regarding the Anglicising of the Welsh Church as a mistake. Independence is a very dangerous cry when it causes blemishes to be regarded as merits. It is the isolation and ruggedness of the old Welsh Church that have made it what it is. It has never yet recognised fully the softening influences of confraternity and refinement. We do not approve of the Hanoverian policy towards that Church. Respect by all means honest national sensibilities, such as the use of the native tongue in the churches, and the appointment of Welsh-speaking bishops; but there can be no surer way to ruin and confusion than to cherish national, or rather tribal, prejudices of the narrowest description.

Non-Christian Religious Systems: The Corán. By Sir W. Muir. (S. P. C. K.) The Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge cannot be held fortunate in the Islamic sections of its "Non-Christian" series. The excellent Indian essays of Prof. Monier Williams and Mr. Rhys Davids are ill balanced by Mr. Stobart's crude and inaccurate *Islam and its Founder*, and by Sir W. Muir's *Corán*. The latter is composed of two parts, neither of which is new. The first part is a meagre epitome of the author's *Life of Mahomet*, of which two editions have appeared. It goes over the same lines as before, only the brevity makes the lines harsher than ever. There is the same faint praise of the generous traits of Mohammed's early career, the same misconstruction of his later life, which we have noticed in the larger work. The sketch of the history of the Koran is useful, but is better in the older work; and the chronological arrangement of chapters is of course more or less empirical. The second part is a third edition of an essay published in 1855 at Agra, and again at Allahabad in 1860, entitled *The Testimony of the Corán to the Scriptures*. It is written with a propagandist object. It enumerates in Arabic and English, with commentary, all, or nearly all, the passages in the Koran that refer to previous revelations, and then invites modern Muslims to believe in the Scriptures even as their Prophet did. It is meant to combat the Muslim view that the present Jewish and Christian Scriptures are not the same as those that Mohammed appealed to as evidence of his own divine mission. Sir W. Muir contends that they are the same as the modern Bible, and thereby seems to commit himself to the inspiration of the "Gospel of the Infancy" and the other spurious and childish Christian writings to which the Koran unmistakably refers; and he would also appear to aver the existence of the ten books of Adam, the fifty of Seth, the thirty of Enoch, and the ten of Abraham, which Mohammed cited as previous revelations. But supposing Sir W. Muir's point proved, and granting the identity of the modern canon with the Tórâh and Injil of the Koran, and admitting that Mohammed himself commanded his followers to believe in the previous revelations, what is gained? It is the rarest possible thing to hear a Muslim revile the Scriptures (it would be well if Christian missionaries behaved in an equally decent manner towards the Koran); they only maintain what Mohammed maintained, that the Koran is the seal of revelation; that it confirms or supersedes all the sacred books that went before it; and that, therefore, no other book can affect the authority of the Koran. The position is impregnable. Sir W. Muir's book may possibly induce a few Muslims to give a little more attention to the Scriptures than their Prophet revered, but it cannot logically compel them by the testimony of the Koran to prefer the authority of the quoted to that of the quoter.

British Cyprus. By W. Hepworth Dixon. (Chapman and Hall.) Mr. Dixon's book is light and bright as the air of Cyprus in April, and not until the last chapter, entitled "Watch and Ward," is he strictly political. Perhaps if he had seen Cyprus in April, Mr. Dixon would not have said that "grass, the basis of our landscape beauty, is unknown." Yet it must be admitted that grass, such as is common in England, is not seen so far south as Cyprus. "To judge this island fairly," says Mr. Dixon, who is clearly in love with Cyprus, "one should come to her from the sands of Egypt and the stones of Judah. Cyprus adds some lovely features of the Delta to some striking features of Palestine; having side by side the sceneries peculiar to a river level and those peculiar to a mountain ridge." His account of the taking over of Cyprus by the English is very amusing and original; the chief attraction to the Turkish officials, hungering for arrears of pay, being mule-loads of English shillings:—

"Pashas had always come in lean and gone out fat. Never before had a Nicosian seen a pasha bring in money. The effect was instant—magical. All eyes were strained after these sumpter-mules; all heads were bent before that officer in blue and gold. Even a 'fanatic,' with his salary in arrears six months, saw in a moment that this English pasha was the man for him."

How true it is of the largest class of the population, as Mr. Dixon says, that, "though poor, the Cypriote rustics are not wretched in the sense in which the words poverty and wretchedness describe an Egyptian fellah or an Irish kerne;" and he gives the reason:—"Nearly everyone owns his patch of ground; liberty implies possession of the land." Mr. Dixon admits that "our people never sighed for Cyprus," and Sir Garnet Wolseley has made a curious and interesting discovery which he disclosed to Mr. Dixon in these words:—"The more I master the whole body of these Turkish laws, the more I am surprised at their humanity and justice." Mr. Dixon says as to British local government of Nicosia:—"Formerly the Cypriotes had as much control over their own affairs as English people; now they are as helpless as Russian serfs." But Mr. Dixon is a fervent admirer of Lord Beaconsfield's policy, and of the acquisition, and compares—what would Motley have said!—our support of the Turkish dominion from attack by Russia with that which Elizabeth gave to the Netherlands against the might of Spain. The comparison is not obvious; for our part, we must confess it is offensive to find that grand historic struggle of the Dutch compared with the doings of the armies of the Sultan. But Mr. Dixon is rarely so extravagant, except perhaps when he predicts that Famagousta will rival Alexandria as a seaport. Dog-spearling is the latest development of British "sport" in Cyprus. Mr. Dixon says that British officers "single out a dog and urge him to the open field; and these youngsters say that dog-hunting at Cerinia is better than pig-sticking in Bengal." Mr. Dixon might have reminded them that in England such a mode of destroying surplus dogs might involve a month's hard labour for the "youngsters." Mr. Dixon is apologetic as to the climate of Cyprus, and sympathetic as to the customs of the island where these are opposed to English usage. He glories in the acquisition. What if "Italy is jealous, France angry, Greece exasperated, and Germany annoyed! When was acquisition made without exciting envy or distrust?" "Cyprus is our watch-tower and our place of arms." That echo of the Prime Minister is Mr. Dixon's conclusion. On the whole his book is pleasant reading—the writing of a man who knows and has seen much of the world, and has made himself master, by the way of reading and observation, of Cyprus. We have met with no such interesting sketch of the natural features, the people, the manners, customs, and institutions (new and old) of the island, and the reader may easily avoid, if he pleases, the nauseous com-

parison at the end of *British Cyprus*, to which we have before referred.

Lord Beaconsfield: a Biography. By T. P. O'Connor. (W. Mullin.) It is but a few weeks since we briefly noticed *The Public Life of the Earl of Beaconsfield* by Francis Hitchman (Chapman and Hall). The present work may be best described as the elaborate antidote to those two volumes of adulation. It consists of little more than a collection of clippings from speeches, novels, and letters, strung together on a chain of argumentative abuse. Where Mr. Hitchman sees perfect consistency, there Mr. O'Connor finds nothing but hypocrisy and self-seeking. The one has created in his imagination an ideal statesman, such as the world will never witness; the other paints a combination of evil and audacity which equally passes the bounds of belief. The pity of it is that no just medium can be obtained from a comparison of these two unnatural portraits. Each biographer is so blinded by prejudice as to be incapable of judging his subject by the relative standard of composite humanity. Every act must be either a virtue or a crime. To an impartial mind, the result is that whichever of the two books is read last seems for the time to be the worst. Extravagance in flattery or in detraction supplies its own corrective, and common-sense refuses to believe in the existence of monsters. Party politics apart, we incline to think that Mr. O'Connor is the less effective of the two writers; for the career of genius can never be appreciated by one whose special qualifications are righteous indignation and the analytical industry of a commentator.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A SMALL work, entitled *Zululand and the Zulus*, by Mr. J. A. Farrer, is about to be published by Messrs. Kerby and Edean. Beside some notices of Zulu religion, legends, fables, riddles, and customs, it will contain a short account of Zulu history from the first year of the original English settlement in Natal; and also a summary of the several attempts to establish missions in Zululand, from the first, under Captain Gardiner, in 1835, down to the experiences of Mr. Otfebro.

WE understand that the third volume of Mr. Green's *History of the English People* is now returned for press, and will be published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co. before Easter. The fourth and last volume is also in the printer's hands, and may be expected soon after vol. iii.

DR. W. C. BENNETT's new poems, *Songs for Soldiers*, will be published next week by Messrs. Diprose and Bateman in a form which is a novelty for the first issue of a volume of poetry. They will appear in quarto—sixteen pages, *Punch*-size—at the price of two-pence, so as to be within the reach of every soldier. The *Songs for Sailors*, by the same author, will follow at the same price.

THE REV. F. J. JAYNE, M.A., of Keble College, and formerly Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford, has been appointed Principal of St. David's College, Lampeter, in the room of the late Dean Lewellin. The Welsh Professorship at the same College is about to become vacant by the preferment of Prof. Hughes to the Rectory of Cwm Du, Breconshire.

MR. P. A. DANIEL's *Time-Analysis of Antony and Cleopatra* (read with the *Time-Analysis* of the other tragedies before the New Shakspeare Society in December) was read at the last meeting of the Clifton Shakspeare Society, when Mr. L. M. Griffiths read "A Note on *Antony and Cleopatra*, Act ii., sc. 7," and Dr. J. E. Shaw "A Note on *Antony and Cleopatra*, Act ii., sc. 5, l. 3."

WE were misinformed last week as to the nature of Prof. Fraser's proposed edition of Locke's *Essay on the Human Understanding*. We now have authority to state that it will be not a student's, but a standard library edition, in two handsome octavo volumes, and both in appearance

and treatment uniform with Prof. Fraser's already well-known edition of Berkeley's *Life and Works* (5 vols., 8vo). The editor will be greatly obliged to anyone who will send him special information on the subject to 20 Chester Terrace, Edinburgh.

MESSRS. HENNINGER, of Heilbronn, propose to publish in 1880 a monthly *Literaturblatt für germanische und romanische Philologie*, to be edited by Drs. Behaghel and Neumann, of Heidelberg.

THE importance of the controversy between Cappellus and the Buxtorfs relative to the antiquity of the Hebrew punctuation, and the *dictum* of Hupfeld that in researches as to the origin of the Old Testament text we had as yet (in 1830) made but few advances beyond Cappellus, Morinus, Simon, and the Buxtorfs, justify Dr. G. Schnedermann in his thorough and discriminating historical sketch, *Die Controverse des L. Cappellus mit den Buxtorfen u. s. w.* (Leipzig: Hinrichs), which we heartily commend to those who prefer octavo pamphlets to the quartos and folios of our ancestors.

DR. FR. BAETHGEN has published the Syriac version of Sindbad, a specimen of which was printed by Rödiger, its discoverer, according to the Berlin MS., with a German translation (Leipzig: Hinrichs). Until the Arabic version, or, still better, the Sanskrit original, comes to light, this Syriac recension is the oldest authority for this important and widely-propagated work. The Greek version (*Syntipas*) is based upon the Syriac.

STUDENTS of that remarkable period which opens modern history, and which includes the expedition of Charles VIII., the wars carried on by Louis XII. for the duchy of Milan and the kingdom of Naples, the League of Cambray, the battle of Pavia, and the sack of Rome, will welcome the news of the intended publication of the diaries of the contemporary chronicler Marino Sanuto. Subscribers must pledge themselves to the "Cancelleria della Deputazione Veneta di Storia Patria—Fondazione Querini-Stampalia" at Venice) to the first twelve volumes of the Diaries. The volumes will appear in monthly parts, each of which will cost five Italian lire. We need hardly point out the singularly favourable position of a citizen of Venice like Sanuto for gaining wide and accurate information of what was going on in that stirring age. The expense of publication will be considerable, and English librarians should do their part by subscribing.

CAPT. A. H. MARKHAM, R.N., has written a popular account of the various attempts that have been made by Englishmen to reach the North Pole. It will shortly be published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co. in a single crown 8vo volume, illustrated, under the title *Northward Ho!*

MR. ROBERT BROWNING has consented to accept the Presidency of the New Shakspeare Society. The original Prospectus of the Society, issued by its founder in November 1873, said, "The Presidency of the Society will be left vacant till one of our greatest living poets sees that it is his duty to take it;" and we are glad to find that, after four years of honourable and useful work, the Society has been able to put at its head that "one of our greatest living poets" whose genius in power, life, variety, penetration into character, is closest akin to Shakspeare's.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN AND Co. will publish almost immediately a new supplement to Mr. Joseph Irving's *Annals of our Time*, containing a narrative of events from February 1874 to the English occupation of Cyprus.

THE first General Meeting of the Index Society will be held at the rooms of the Royal Asiatic Society on Wednesday, the 26th inst., at 5.30 p.m. The Earl of Carnarvon, who has accepted the Presidency of the Society, will take the chair. The Report of the Committee for submission to the meeting will contain a full account

of work now in hand, and of such indexes as are known to be in preparation outside the society's field of operations.

M. LEROUX proposes to publish, under the title of "Bibliothèque slave elzévirienne," four or five volumes yearly on subjects connected with the Slav nations. The first volume has appeared, and is entitled *Religion et mœurs des Russes: anecdotes recueillies par le comte Joseph de Maistre et le P. Griovel, S.J.*, edited by F. Gagarin, S.J.

M. ALEXANDRE HEPP, author of *Les Errantes*, and M. Clément Montereau are about to publish (with M. Ollendorf of Paris) a small volume entitled *Ruy-Blas, théâtre et journalistes*.

THE *Revue Critique* announces that P. Grézel has published a *Dictionnaire futunien-français*, and that the Marist Fathers are engaged on a Samoan and French-English Dictionary.—M. de Montaiglon is preparing a collection of *Sotties, sermons joyeux, farces et moralités*, which will be comprised in several volumes.

MESSRS. WARD AND LOCK have now published, in their very cheap and well-printed "Christian Knowledge Series," Paley's *Evidences*, Butler's *Analogy*, Taylor's *Holy Living*, and Doddridge's *Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul*, edited, with Lives of the Authors, Introductions, and Notes, by the Rev. F. A. Maleson.

MR. JOHN HARRIS has sent us a copy of the first of his two lectures recently delivered at Kilburn on *The Circle and Straight Line* (Wertheimer). In this he further develops the mathematical theory associated with the pseudonym of "Kuklos."

THE first Report of the Wigan Free Library has been issued. Mr. H. T. Folkard, the librarian, states in it that during the eight months in which the library has been open 5,046 works have been consulted in the Reference Department, and 42,174 borrowed from the Lending Department. The books have been bought from the bequest of the late Dr. Winnard, and the building in which they are stored is the gift of Mr. Thomas Taylor, who has also furnished funds to enable the Reference Library to be opened on Sundays to persons holding special tickets issued by the committee. Among the newer town libraries Wigan may be expected to take an important position, for neither skill nor funds have been wanting, and in consequence the collection already includes many important works which are not always, and, indeed, not often, found on the shelves of town libraries. Among them are the Bollandist *Acta Sanctorum*, the *Annales* of Baronius, the *Patrologia* of Migne, the *Birds of Europe and Britain* of Gould, the publications of the Royal, Linnean, Astronomical, Palaeontographical and other societies, the galleries of Dresden, Munich, Paris, Naples, and Rome, and many other equally notable works.

A CORRESPONDENT sends us the following, as bearing on the authenticity of the *Annals* of Tacitus:—

"Ptolemy, *Geog.* ii., ch. 11., mentions a place in Frisia which he calls Σιατουράδα. This place has never been found. The reason is that it is a misreading of the following passage in Tacitus, *Annals* iv., 73, l. 4, 'Exercitum . . . Frisiis intulit, soluto iam castelli obsidio et ad sua tutanda digressis rebellibus.' This is an earlier and more convincing proof of the authenticity of the *Annals*, if any were needed, than has, I think, yet been brought forward, although the facts have long been known."

A contributor writes on this subject:—

"I have examined the passage in Ptolemy; the MSS. generally seem to give Σιατουράδα, one Σιατουράδα. The agreement with Tacitus, *Annals* iv., 73, is certainly curious, and possibly the geographer may have mistaken the historian's meaning. But I should not lay much stress upon it, as it might be retorted—May not Tacitus have made the mistake, and copied the very words of his authority under a false impression of their meaning? i.e., the place was called Σιατουράδα, and was so meant by the

writer Tacitus consulted for the German wars, but was not rightly understood by Tacitus."

"Nobbe, however, takes your correspondent's view."

THE *Journal of the National Indian Association* for March (C. Kegan Paul and Co.) contains a highly interesting account of "Our Village Schools," by a Parsi. It may not be generally known that the school forms an essential feature in the indigenous system of rural India. These *pathshalas* or village schools have recently been included within the scope of the Government education department, but our Parsi gives his personal experience of their primitive condition twenty years ago. Before being admitted to secular instruction, all boys in those days had to undergo a course of religious training at the hands of their own priest, whether Hindu, Mohammedan, or Parsi. The solemn but joyous ceremony of initiation into school life is described with much simple humour. The *arma Minervae* which each pupil brought to school with him consisted of a wooden board, a small pointed stick, and a fine muslin rag. Through the rag dust taken from the street was strained on to the board, and the stick was used to write on this dusty surface. The instruction was entirely oral. The chief acquirements taught were "a wonderful facility in impromptu calculations of all sorts, and a bold well-formed hand." Altogether, the system of tuition and its results vividly recall the well-known lines in the *Ars Poetica*, describing how the Roman youth were taught to cast accounts. After reading the following, English boys will rest content with their traditional form of corporal punishment:—

"Any failure of memory or miscalculation was visited by summary punishment. The culprit had to kneel for hours together with sharp pebbles under his knees, while at times the bent back received a slab of stone proportionate in weight to the gravity of the offence."

THE *Deutsche Rundschau* for March has extracts from Count Moltke's commonplace books containing remarks on the geography of Rome and the Campagna, which he surveyed in the years 1845-6, and of which he afterwards published a map. Dr. Brandes brings to an end his articles on "The Youth of Benjamin Disraeli," which consist of a psychological study, founded on his early novels, of the influences which formed the Premier's character. The best article in this number is by Herr Karl Hillebrand on "Halbbildung und Gymnasial-Reform." Herr Hillebrand is very happy in his sketch of the present condition of Germany—its social discontent, its recent rapid development of Philistinism, its sensitiveness at feeling that its reputation is declining in the eyes of Europe. Like Mr. Matthew Arnold among ourselves, Herr Hillebrand finds the remedy in the improvement of middle-class education, about which and its relations to national culture he says much that is valuable.

THE *Revue Historique* has an article by M. Gaffarel on Peyrot Monluc, son of the Maréchal Blaise de Monluc, who took part in the religious war in France in 1562 and afterwards turned his attention to a naval expedition into unknown parts. He fitted out a little fleet, which was joined by several English vessels, in 1566; driven by a storm into Madeira, he was treated with suspicion, and in anger stormed and took the town, but was killed in the battle. The presence of English vessels at this enterprise, and its resemblance to the feats of English seamen at the same period, make this curious episode of French history well worth recording. It would seem that there was at least one man in France—for Peyrot Monluc was powerfully backed by Coligny—who would have been glad to urge France into the same career of naval adventure as England had already entered upon. M. Tessier publishes some very interesting extracts from the papers of General Decaen relating to the battle of Hohenlinden and the beginnings of Bonaparte and Moreau. Signor Villari communicates a number of valuable notes made by Sismondi on French affairs in 1815; they

contain information which he gathered himself in Paris, and are authenticated in each case by the name of his informant.

MR. PATERSON, of Edinburgh, the publisher of the edition of Burns, of which Vol. V. was noticed in last week's ACADEMY, writes to us to state that, though no editor's name appears on the title-page, Mr. Scott Douglas continues to be responsible as editor for all the volumes.

WE have received:—*The Patentee's Manual*, by James and J. H. Johnson, fourth edition (Longmans); *The School and the World*, by Jas. White, second edition (Wyman); *The British School Series of Readers*, ed. T. Morrison (Gall and Inglis); *The Elective Franchise in the United States*, by D. C. McMillan (New York: Putnam's Sons); *Ripon Diocesan Calendar and Church Almanack*, 1879 (Parker); *A Dream of Arcadia*, by L. B. Thomas (Baltimore: Turnbull); *Reading as a Fine Art*, by E. Legouvé, trans. A. L. Alger (Boston: Roberts); *The Battersea Series of Standard Reading Books*, written and compiled by Evan Daniel (Stanford); *Lehrbuch der Evangelisch-Protestantischen Dogmatik*, von Dr. R. A. Lipsius, zweite Auflage (Braunschweig: Schwetschke); *Norges Helgener*, af Ludvig Daas (Christiania: Cammermeyer); *De l'Intelligence*, par H. Taine, troisième édition (Paris: Hachette); *Die Strassburger Tucher- u. Weberzunft*, von G. Schmoller (Strassburg: Trübner); *The Printing Times and Lithographer*, vol. iv., new series (Wyman); *Theory of the Chess Openings*, by G. H. D. Gossip (New Wortley: Inman); *Facts and Dates*, by the Rev. A. Mackay, third edition (Blackwood); *The Curé's Niece*, by M. Ségan (Burns and Oates), &c.

SALES.

ON Monday and Tuesday last week Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge sold some valuable books and manuscripts, including:—Bewick's *Select Fables*, 10*l.*; De Foe's *Robinson Crusoe*, first edition, 3*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; De Foe's *Conjugal Lewdness*, first edition, 7*l.* 5*s.*; Dorat's *Les Baisers précédés du Mois du Mai*, 30*l.*; Atkyns' *Gloucestershire*, 7*l.* 10*s.*; Clutterbuck's *Hertfordshire*, 13*l.* 5*s.*; *Chronicon Nurembergense*, illuminated MS., 15*l.* 15*s.*; Ince and Mayhew's *Household Furniture*, 15*l.* 10*s.*; Shelley's *Laon and Cythina*, genuine edition, 1818, 4*l.* 4*s.*; Shelley's Works, edited by H. B. Forman, 4 vols., printed on vellum, unique, 36*l.*; King's *Mediaeval Architecture*, 6*l.* 6*s.*; Lipscomb's *County of Buckingham*, 8*l.* 5*s.*; *Moyen Age et la Renaissance*, 10*l.*; Woodward, Wilks, and Lockhart's *Hampshire*, 7*l.*; *Musée Français*, 18*l.*; Nash's *Mansions*, 18*l.*; Piranesi's *Opere*, in 31 vols., 65*l.*; Richardson's *Monasteries of Yorkshire*, 10*l.*; D. Roberts' *Holy Land*, &c., 20*l.*; Turner's *Liber Studiorum*, 70*l.* Many of Mr. Ruskin's works were also sold; the following of them fetched the highest prices:—*Modern Painters*, 36*l.* 10*s.*, another copy, 5 vols. in 4, 22*l.* 10*s.*; *Stones of Venice*, first edition, 20*l.*; *Seven Lamps of Architecture*, 7*l.* 10*s.*; *Ariadne Florentina*, 2*l.* 2*s.*; *Notes on Academy Pictures*, 1855–59, 4*l.* 10*s.*; *Elements of Drawing*, 2*l.*

On the 5th inst. Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge sold a few autographs of interest. Among them were:—A letter of Louis XIII. to Cardinal Richelieu, May 30, 1628, about the restoration to favour of the Prince de Condé, which fetched 6*l.* 6*s.*; Bishop Ken to "Good Mr. Dodwell," 3*l.* 12*s.*; an order by Lord Byron to deliver certain books, &c., to John Murray, 2*l.*; Lady Hamilton to Beckford, 2*l.* 2*s.*; letters of Lord Nelson to Capt. Blackwood, 1*l.* 15*s.* to 2*l.* 16*s.* each; Samuel Foote to David Garrick, dated North End, August 3, 1760, referring to his performance of Hamlet, 2*l.* 5*s.*; A. Pope to Mr. Brinsden, written in 1742, 3*l.*; Washington to the Rev. W. Boucher, on the expediency of an American Episcopate, 2*l.* 12*s.*; R. Bloomfield to

Southey, 1*l.* 5*s.*; George Whitefield the preacher to Mr. Peter, 2*l.* 2*s.*; autograph verses by Kirke White, 2*l.* 19*s.*; Warren Hastings, 1*l.*; letters of John Wesley, 1*l.* to 2*l.* each.

NOTES OF TRAVEL.

WE have received the first part of a new edition of Stieler's *Hand Atlas*, which will in future consist of ninety-five maps, instead of ninety as hitherto. No less than twenty-nine maps have been re-engraved or added since 1875. There will be new maps of the West Indies (in four sheets), of South America (in six sheets), of Germany (in four sheets), and several others. A map of the Mediterranean (in eight sheets), which Dr. Petermann left uncompleted when he died, will be published as a supplement. It will thus be seen that the publishers of this famous *Hand Atlas* spare neither trouble nor expense to keep abreast of the requirements of the public. Their enterprise, no doubt, meets with a rich reward; and we could only wish that English map-publishers would show themselves equally enterprising. The famous Atlas published by the Society for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge was superior to Stieler's at the time, and to every other foreign atlas; but it has been shamefully allowed to drop behind.

IN suggesting that the hills of Wales and Scotland are as worthy of being explored as the Alps we did not intend to cast any reproach upon the Alpine Club. We rather intended to suggest the formation of Cambrian, Cumbrian, and Grampian Clubs, whose object it would be to explore the hills of Britain as carefully as those of Switzerland are being explored by Swiss and other mountain clubs. We mean, of course, that these clubs should do scientific work, and not merely climb the hills or consume their annual dinners. A meteorological station is about to be established on Ben Nevis: similar stations might be established on Snowdon and elsewhere; and if the resident members were to cooperate, like those of Switzerland, a great deal of useful work might be done.

DR. SOETBEER'S *Edelmetall Produktion*, published as a supplement to Petermann's *Mittheilungen*, is an elaborate statistical paper on the production of the precious metals since 1493. The author enters fully into the statistics of every country, and his summaries, filling several pages of close print, are highly interesting. The total amount yielded throughout the world between 1493 and 1878 is estimated by him at 180,511,485 kilogr. of silver and 9,492,345 kilogr. of gold; the former representing a money value of 1,624,603,850*l.*, the latter of 1,318,741,650*l.* At no time has silver been worked more successfully than during the last fifteen years, the annual yield having been 1,469,884 kilogr.; while the yield of gold has decreased since 1850–60, when it was 206,058 kilogr., as compared with 170,675 kilogr. in 1871–75. Of all the silver hitherto used in the world nearly one-half has been furnished by the mines of Mexico; while the United States, closely followed by Australia, take the lead among gold-producing countries. In 1493–1520 the annual value of the precious metals yielded throughout the world was only 1,232,100*l.*; in the beginning of the nineteenth century it had risen to 10,527,350*l.*, and in 1870–75 it was 41,533,950*l.*, more than half of which fell to the new mining grounds of North America and Australia. Dr. Soetbeer does not discuss the currency question, but furnishes ample materials to one desirous of investigating it.

WE have received Mr. Stanford's *Large Scale Map of Zulu Land*, which shows the hills in a picturesque style, as if they had been photographed from a model, and exhibits a considerable progress upon the war maps published hitherto. Of course, a good many places men-

tioned by correspondents will be looked for in vain, but this is no fault of the compiler, for the exploration of this frontier country and probable battle-ground has been shamefully neglected.

BESIDES two papers read at recent meetings of the Royal Geographical Society by Sir Henry Rawlinson and Mr. Clements R. Markham, the current number of the *Monthly Record of Geography* furnishes useful lists of books and maps relating to Zululand. Among the Geographical Notes we find one of considerable interest, from an ethnographical point of view, on the Loochoo Islands, which have never yet been thoroughly investigated. Under the head of Correspondence is a letter from Capt. S. R. Franklin, Hydrographer U.S.N., on the subject of the longitude of Pará. The number contains two maps—the Turcoman Steppe and Khorassan, and Western Afghanistan—the former of which is particularly acceptable, as no good map is easily accessible which shows the country between the Caspian and Merv.

THE March number of the *Church Missionary Intelligencer* announces the death of another member of the Nyanza mission, Mr. Penrose, who had gone forward from Mpwapa towards Lake Victoria after Messrs. Stokes and Copplestone, and with a separate caravan. After passing through Ugogo, he took the westward route towards Unyanyembe, in order to reach Uyui, the present residence of Said-bin-Salim, the ex-Governor of the district. The *pori*, or uninhabited country called Mgunda Mkhali, is infested with robbers, like the similar tract of country on the other side of Ugogo, where Mr. Mackay was robbed some time back; and through this region Mr. Penrose was travelling in company with several Arab caravans. It seems that they had all encamped near a small lake called Chaya, and that Mr. Penrose, being anxious to get on, started to resume his journey a little before the others, when he was attacked and murdered with his porters from the coast. From another source we learn that it is believed at Zanzibar that the marauders who attacked Mr. Penrose's party did so to avenge a defeat which they had previously suffered at the hands of the Abbé Debaize, the leader of the French Scientific Expedition.

THE Egyptian General Staff have just published at Cairo a Report on the botanical specimens collected in 1875–6 by the late Dr. Pfund during the expeditions of Colonel Colston and Major Prout to Kordofan, and of General Purdy to Darfur, which were productive of good results to many branches of science. The determination and classification of the specimens was entrusted by General Stone to Dr. J. H. Zarb.

MAGAZINES AND REVIEWS.

THE *Contemporary* has an interesting article, though one to many points of which it seems likely that exception might be taken, on "The Anomaly of the Renaissance," by Vernon Lee, a writer to whose papers in *Fraser* we have more than once called attention. The object of the article is to answer the question why it was that the Renaissance was such an anomalous thing; why the beauty which shines upon us from its canvases is so marred by moral deformity; why it shows such a "bitter mixing up of what we love in art with what we loathe in man;" how it came about that "what seemed to be a regeneration" should issue from "what was in reality a vast national, political, social, and moral collapse." Viewing the Renaissance as "not a period but a condition," the writer defines it as

"that phase in mediæval history in which the double influence, feudal and ecclesiastic, which had gradually crushed the spontaneous life of the early mediæval revival, and reduced all to a dead, sterile mass, was neutralised by the existence of democratic and secular communities; that phase in which, while

there existed not yet any large nations, or any definite national feeling, there existed free towns and civic communities."

In the North freedom and civic life existed only in single towns. In Italy, where feudalism never took deep root, it spread throughout the country and transformed the very Teutonic lords into Gherardescas and Rolandinghi. But the "seed of decay" became apparent when city began to encroach upon city, and the inevitable result was foreign war, domestic feuds, exiles, and mercenary troops.

"The Renaissance possessed the germs of every modern thing, and much that was far more than a mere germ; it possessed the habit of equality before the law, of civic organisation, of industry and commerce developed to immense and superb proportions. It possessed science, literature, and art; above all, what at once produced and was produced by all these, thorough perception of what exists, thorough consciousness of our own freedom and powers, self-cognition."

But for this men had to pay the heavy price of the loss of all moral standard, of all fixed public feeling—resulting not only in the crimes and cynicism of the Malatestas and the Borgias, and of their smaller imitators, but still more in the universal toleration of wrong which sprang from the feeling that "to reprobate others was to be narrow-minded." The author gives three main causes of the immorality of the Renaissance:

"first the general disbelief in all accepted doctrines due to the falseness and unnaturalness of those hitherto prevalent; secondly, the success of unscrupulous talent in a condition of political disorder; thirdly, the wholesale and ungrudging enthusiasm for all that remained of antiquity, good or bad."

But, as the writer says (and this is the strongest part of the paper), the faults of the Renaissance were both inevitable as a consequence of what had gone before and as a condition of what was to come after; moreover, as the world seems to be constituted, the great periods out of which a new world is created are always periods of chaos, the Renaissance and the eighteenth century being the notable instances. It is desirable then, as Mr. Lee reminds us, "to be generous to the men who were wicked that we might be enlightened." Another paper to which we have not space to do more than merely to refer is Prof. Bonamy Price's spirited plea for a classical education on the fourfold ground that Greek and Latin are literatures, and not merely definite branches of knowledge; that they contain the greatest works to which it is possible to have access; that they are dead languages, and therefore far enough removed from a boy's experience to demand constant effort for their mastery, and far enough from the master's experience to be treated without bias or prepossession; and, lastly, that a classical education "establishes a close contact between the mind of the boy and the mind of the teacher." Many points in the article admit of an easy answer; but, on the whole, it is one to increase our respect for the veteran writer.

THE present number of *Macmillan* is a very full one. Apart from Prof. Paley's reply on the question of the "Age of Homer," which has already been fully noticed in these columns, and the political articles, among which must be reckoned Prof. Jebb's interesting paper on "The Progress of Greece," there are papers of more or less interest on Burns, Lamb, and Shelley. Burns' "Unpublished Commonplace Book" is only unpublished in the sense that it has not hitherto been given to the world in an absolutely complete and authentic form. Some remarks of Allan Cunningham, according to the writer of the paper, Mr. William Jack, have created an impression that the Commonplace Book contains things the publication of which might do injury to Burns' memory. "It is to remove this impression, which is utterly unjust, to correct the other mistakes on the subject, and to add a little to what is authentically known of Burns, that my friend

Mr. Macmillan, the owner of the Commonplace Book, has entrusted it to me for publication." In the strict sense, however, the book is "unpublished," as its former editor, Dr. Currie, has taken similar liberties with the text to those taken with the text of Blake, and has here and there omitted really good and characteristic things. Such, for instance, is that "delightful flash of half comedy" as Mr. Jack calls it, where Burns describes one of his Edinburgh patrons and would-be critics as "an exalted judge of the human heart—and of composition." In any case it is satisfactory to get an authentic edition of Burns' notes, and they were certainly well worth printing. The "Five New Anecdotes" about Charles Lamb contributed by Mr. Algernon Black are derived from the conversation of Lamb's friend and colleague, Mr. John Chambers. The anecdotes themselves, with the exception of the one recounting Lamb's manner of taking a holiday, do not come to much; but it is worth noting that Mr. Chambers "always spoke of Lamb as an excellent man of business, discharging the duties of his post with accuracy, diligence, and punctuality." The "Notes on Shelley's birthplace," by Mr. W. Hale White, are pleasantly written, and will give their author a place in the regards of Shelleyists like himself. There are many interesting things in the second instalment of Mr. A. J. Wilson's "Can Reciprocity help us?" We may notice that he dwells much on the point on which we laid stress in these columns last month, the futility, namely, of hoping to convince foreign nations of the error of their ways by a policy of what he happily calls "tariff wars." His recommendations at the end of the paper—to the manufacturers to "try a little honesty for a change," and to the workmen to "work harder and drink less"—are expressed with considerable pungency. "In short nothing is more clearly taught by the example we have given, and by all sound economic precept than this truth—that incessant and increased labour, and ever-increasing economy of production, will alone suffice to enable the nation to come out of the present industrial struggle victorious." Mr. Andrew Lang's charming ballad, "To Theocritus in Winter," shows the author's command over the exceptional difficulties of the form chosen. The poem is a *tour de force*, and yet perfectly graceful and unconstrained in its silken fetters.

Fraser contains a chatty paper on "White of Selborne," by the Rev. M. G. Watkins, which should send all readers of *Fraser* who do not already know their White's *Selborne* by heart, to Prof. Bell's edition. Mr. William B. Scott gives us "A Second Portfolio of Ancient Engravings," wherein he discourses chiefly of the Little Masters, and gives an interesting account of Agostino Veneziano's great print of *Il Stragazzo*. Notwithstanding Spagnoletto's definite ascription of the design to Raphael, Mr. W. B. Scott refuses, "from internal evidence," to believe that Raphael could have been the author of it. The ambitious paper on "Metastasio, and the Opera of the Seventeenth Century," by Vernon Lee, contains much that is interesting. The sketch of Gravina, in particular, Metastasio's patron, and almost creator, is an excellent piece of work.

THE most important paper in *Blackwood* is a conversation of Mr. Senior with "Odilon Barrot in 1848," giving the latter's account of the Revolution of July. There is an original flavour about the little story of "The Great Unloaded," which makes it very good reading. The paper on "Novelists" contains nothing but the most respectable platitudes expressed in an unpleasant double-shotted style.

OBITUARY.

ANNIE KEARY.

THE many who regret the novelist whose last fiction showed that she had not passed if she had reached her meridian, when her light was lost to

us, do not know the sorrow of the few for a skillful interpreter of the hard utterances of archaeologists. Like another authoress still with us, Miss Keary could put the dead annals of Egypt and Assyria into a living form, not only because she understood human interests and had the gift of pleasant style, but also because writing with her was a matter of conscience, and she brought the same pains to the study of ancient history as to the artistic record of modern life. One of her earliest works was purely imaginative, the fairy-tales of the volume *Little Wanderlin*. This was followed by the *Heroes of Asgard*, a charming epitome of Norse mythology. Still writing for the young, she produced, after a visit to Egypt, *Early Egyptian History*; and, later, the wider essay, *The Nations Around*; the first full of her own impressions, the second as remarkable from its strong power of realisation. The description in the later work of Ur of the Chaldees is unsurpassed as a revival from the dry materials of archaeology of a long-buried civilisation. Latterly Miss Keary wrote fiction only. Choosing the plain incidents of quiet lives, she was foremost among the restorers of the English novel to its rightful scope. As she felt the effects of encouragement her powers increased, and her last work, very rapidly written, far surpassed its predecessors, and gave promise of yet higher attainment. This hope was disappointed by her death on her fifty-fourth birthday, the 3rd of this month.

Without speaking of private sorrow, it will be an encouragement to women who love literary work that, notwithstanding unceasing composition, Miss Keary found time for rare family devotion, and that rarer virtue which made her a mother to some of her near kin who owe to her wise training the success which she lived to rejoice in. Nor did she shut herself away from society. The many friends who met her in the last twenty-seven years will not soon forget a conversation which owed its charm to true sympathy and strong interest. The poor will long remember the months she gave to the charge of homeless servant-girls, and the little acts of kindness that were never perfunctory. Perhaps she will be most widely recollected by the many who, as children, were entranced by her power of storytelling, for which all occupations, however heavy, were instantly set aside, so that a visit to her quiet home was their most cherished holiday. The secret of her life was love of work and work for love.

ELIHU BURRITT.

THE "learned Blacksmith" died at New York on the 7th inst. He was the son of a New England shoemaker, and was born in Connecticut, at the township of New Britain, on December 8, 1810. He received the ordinary education of an American village boy until his father's death, when he was apprenticed to a blacksmith. For about twenty years he worked at this trade, using his spare hours for self-culture, until he became so famous a person that he was obliged to give up the smithy. At twenty-one he began to study mathematics, but his real talent was for languages, of which he mastered, or at least dabbled deeply in, about fifteen. He was in London in 1848, and published a bright little book, *Sparks from the Anvil*, which enjoyed a great popularity. In 1853 this was followed by *Olive Leaves*. He was sent over in June 1856 by the American Government to be United States Consul at Birmingham, and he lived for twenty years in England. His later books, all in the same chatty and autobiographical vein, are *Thoughts on Things at Home and Abroad*, 1854; *A Walk from John o'Groat's to Land's End*, 1865; *Lectures and Speeches*, 1869; and *Chips from Many Blocks*. He was eminent as a lecturer on social and economic subjects, and a man of great energy and public spirit. As a linguist, it must be said, his attainments have been grossly exaggerated; that he was "intimately acquainted with fifty

languages" is sheer absurdity. He was a brisk and cheerful person, full of practical ability, but not greatly remarkable from a literary point of view.

THE Dutch popular poet Van Zeggelen died on February 16. His first work, *De reis van Pieter Spa naar Londen* (Pieter Spa's Journey to London), appeared in 1838, and has run through twelve editions. His later poems, *De Valkenvangst*, 1840; *Pieter Spa naar Amsterdam*, 1841; and *De Avondpartij*, 1848, enjoyed scarcely less popularity. In 1851 he published his delightful comic work *Koen Verklart en zijn Gezelschap*. From 1834 to about 1860 Van Zeggelen enjoyed the highest reputation in Holland, and was styled "the Dutch Béranger." This fame, however, has of late shown symptoms of decline.

SELECTED BOOKS.

General Literature.

- BEKENDT, G. *Nachtrag zu den Pommerellischen Gesichts-
urnen*. Königsberg: Koch. 3 M. 70 Pf.
ELTON, J. F. *Travels and Researches among the Lakes
and Mountains of Eastern and Central Africa*. Murray.
21s.
KLEIN, W. *Euphronios. Eine Studie zur Geschichte der
griechischen Malerei*. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 5 M.
LEDRU-ROLLAN. *Discours politiques et écrits divers*. Paris:
Germier Baillière. 12 fr.
MARCHE, A. *Trois voyages dans l'Afrique occidentale*. Paris:
Hachette. 3 fr. 60 c.
NAGLER, G. B. *Die Monogrammatisten u. s. w. Fortgesetzt
v. Andreesen u. Claus*. 5. Bd. 3. Lfg. München: Franz.
2 M. 80 Pf.
SCOTT, Sir Gilbert. *Lectures on the Rise and Development of
Medieval Architecture*. Murray. 42s.
VIDER, H. *Das Stadttheater in Hamburg*. Stuttgart: Cotta.
15 M.

History, &c.

- CRUCHON, G. *Les banques dans l'antiquité*. Paris: Pedone-
Lauriel. 5 fr.
DUTEMPLE, E., et L. POVILLE. *Vie politique et militaire du
général Hoche (1768-1797)*. Paris: Géo. 2 fr.
DUVAL, G. *Histoire de la littérature révolutionnaire*. Paris:
Dentu.
FAYRE, E. *La confédération des huit cantons*. Leipzig: Veit.
3 M.
GAIDOU, H. *Esquisse de la religion des Gaulois*. Paris: Fisch-
bacher. 2 fr. 50 c.
HESSE, W. *Geschichte der Stadt Bonn während der franzö-
sischen Herrschaft (1792-1815)*. Bonn: Lempertz. 6 M.
HEYD, W. *Geschichte d. Levantehandels im Mittelalter*. 1. Bd.
Stuttgart: Cotta. 13 M. 50 Pf.
LA HUGUERYE, Michel de. *Mémoires inédits, publiés par le
baron A. de Ruble*. T. 2. Paris: Loozes. 9 fr.
LEIST, B. W. *Das römische Patronatrecht*. 1. Thl. Erlangen:
Palm & Enke. 12 M.
PERRINS, F. T. *Histoire de Florence*. T. 4. Paris: Hachette.
RAYMOND, F. *Archives de la Bastille*. T. X. *Règne de
Louis XIV. (1687-1692)*. Paris: Pedone-Lauriel. 9 fr.

Physical Science and Philosophy.

- FRITSCH, K. *Jährliche Periode der Insectenfauna v. Oester-
reich-Ungarn*. IV. 1. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 4 M.
MANZONI, A. *Gli echinodermi fossili dello Schlier delle Colline
di Bologna*. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 2 M. 40 Pf.
NATHAN, J. *Kant's logische Ansichten u. Leistungen*. Jena:
Neuenhahn. 2 M. 70 Pf.
RAU, A. *Die Entwicklung der modernen Chemie*. Braunsch-
weig: Vieweg. 3 M. 60 Pf.
STEINDACHNER, F. *Zur Fisch-Fauna d. Magdalenen-Strömes*.
Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 10 M.
WIENER, J. *Die heliotropischen Erscheinungen im Pflanzen-
reiche*. 1. Thl. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 3 M.

Philology, &c.

- DELAITRE, A. *Les inscriptions historiques de Ninive et Baby-
lone*. Paris: Leroux. 3 fr.
DUBOR, G. de. *Assyrie et Chaldée*. Paris: Leroux. 4 fr.
FINKERWALDER, C. *De conjunctivi et optativi in enuntiatis
secundarius usu Aeschineo*. Jena: Neuenhahn. 1 M.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PRESTER JOHN.

Llanwrin Rectory, Machynlleth:
March 7, 1879.

In one of the volumes of the Hengwrt Collection of Manuscripts at Peniarth is a tract entitled "Ystori Gwlad Ieuan Fendigaid," or the "History of the Country of John the Blessed"—this Ieuan or John being no other than the mythic potentate, Prester John. The story is evidently a translation; and I am anxious to be informed where the probable original may be found. Lhwyd (*Archæologia Britannica*, p. 265) informs us that a MS. of the same story was in his time (1707) preserved in the library of Jesus College, Oxford. The

volume at Peniarth, of which this legend forms but a small portion, is a large folio numbered 350. It did not originally belong to the Hengwrt collection, but was added to it by the late Colonel Vaughan, of Rug. The handwriting cannot be much older than the beginning of the last century, but the language belongs to an earlier period.

I have met with several allusions to Prester John in the bards of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; and the stories about him were evidently current then in the Principality.

D. SILVAN EVANS.

THE LATE WILLIAM HOWITT.

Savile Club: March 10, 1879.

The opening sentence of your notice of the late William Howitt must surely be founded on a mistake on the part of your informant. To Mr. Howitt's personal friends nothing was more striking than the astonishing bodily vigour of his well-knit frame up to within a very short time before his death. I have before me a letter dated "Rome, 55 Via Sistina, May, 1878," in which he says:—"Now, in my eighty-sixth year, I feel all the freshness of my faculties, and possess an amount of physical energy which amazes all who witness it. I think nothing of rambling away into the mountains for three or four hours together, and without any sensible fatigue." This is hardly like "crossing the Pincian in a bath-chair"! It may be worth while to note that most of your contemporaries understated Mr. Howitt's age by three or four years. It is a singular coincidence that his last surviving brother, Mr. Francis Howitt, died at Heanor, in Derbyshire, on the same day; while the previous day was fatal to Mr. James Macdonell, who married a niece of Mary Howitt's. Francis Howitt remained a "consistent Friend" to the last. William and Mary Howitt severed their connexion with the Quaker body some years after their marriage. ALFRED W. BENNETT.

SHAKSPEARE'S "HOT AT HAND."

London: March 8, 1879.

"But hollow men, like horses *hot at hand*,
Make gallant shew and promise of their mettle."
Shakspeare's *Julius Caesar*, IV., ii., 23-4.

Prof. Craik, in his note on this expression (*Philological Commentary on Julius Caesar*, speech 508), says that this means, apparently, when held by the hand or led, or rather, perhaps, when acted upon only by the rein. He asks whether "at hand" has not always meant only near or hard by, and suggests that Shakspeare may have written "*in hand*," which is the modern phrase. The Clarendon Press Edition of the play explains "at hand" by "held in or restrained from going." It has not, so far as I know, been noticed that the expression occurs also in Beaumont and Fletcher.

"*Galatea*. Ladies, what think you now of this brave fellow?

Megara. A pretty talking fellow, *hot at hand*."

Philaster, I., i.

The context shows that Philaster, of whom the ladies are speaking, has been making gallant show and promise of his mettle, restrained as he is by the usurping king's "hand." Does not at here stand for *against* (A.-S. *at* had this meaning as well as that of *to, from, in, &c.*), and "hot at hand" signify "chafing against (the restraining) hand"? "In hand" does not seem to me at all equivalent in meaning. E. H. HICKEY.

AUTOGRAPH LETTER OF HENRY VIII. IN THE LIBRARY OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, OXFORD.

Fenny Compton Rectory, near Leamington:
March 8, 1879.

The following letter, which I believe to be unpublished, is numbered in Mr. Cox's Catalogue ccviii., fol. 3. Letters written by Henry's own hand are exceedingly rare: he usually contented himself with dictating the letter to his secretary,

and then appending his signature. But here the stiff, upright, zig-zag characters prove the MS. to be in the king's own hand. The fact of its being in autograph shows the extreme care taken by the king to keep the matter secret from Wolsey, as he avows in the letter itself. No address is preserved, nor is "Mr. Secretary" mentioned by name; but it is obvious that the letter is addressed to Dr. Knight, whom Henry had despatched to the Pope on his own account in 1527, under the impression that Wolsey was not doing his best in the cause. This document fully confirms the statements made by Prof. Brewer (in his Preface to vol. iv. of his *Calendar of State Papers*, p. cii.) on the attitude of Henry and Wolsey. It will be observed that three draft bulls are mentioned in this somewhat rambling letter: one with which Dr. Knight was first furnished by the king, but which got known to Wolsey, and so is hereby cancelled by the king; a second is sent enclosed in this letter, which is perfectly secret; and a third, the king says, he may have to send *pro forma*, which, however, will not clash with No. 2; only, if Wolsey gets wind of Dr. Knight's errand, the king intends to outwit him by asking him to draw up a form of bull similar in purpose to No. 2, and forward it to Dr. Knight. Prof. Brewer, in a letter to me of December last, says:—

"I never saw any letter wholly in the king's hand, and I should doubt if any such existed, with the exception of Henry's letters to Ann Boleyn in the Vatican, but they are brief ones. It is certainly a most curious and valuable document, and shows, more clearly than any other, the king's apprehensions of the Cardinal, even when he seemed most to trust him."

E. L. HICKS.

The document is as follows:—

"Mr. Secretary this shalbe to advertece you that the secrett bull I | sent you for is at this houre known pfectly to my lorde | cardynall by whose meanes I knowe well yonghe, but | I advertece you therof because I am sure that (thoughe | my lord cardynall do wryte unto you that he knowe it) you | wold not yet be ackowen therof wherby may happe he | shuld suspecte that you wer sent (as you be in dede) for | things that I wold not he shuld know, wherfore if he | other wryte or send to you in that matter I will yor answer | be that truthe it is, I sent aft' you suche a won but that | it was no parte of your comysion when you went from me | and that therein youe will nothinge do but as I & the sayd | lord cardynall shall comaund you for my pleasure is in | dede (as padventure you shalbe advertised by the said lord | cardynall hereaft') that you shall make no further labor | touchinge that bull, Nevertheles I do nowe send to you | the copy of another whiche no man dothe knowe but they | whiche I am sure will never disclose it to no man livinge | for any crafte the lord cardynall or any other can fynd | willinge you bothe to kepe it secrett & to sollicite that it | may be made in due forme keepinge the effecte & tenor | therof and wth all dylygence (it wone impetrate) to send it | to us, Surely to be playne with you we are of the opynyon | that the cardynall is of, touchinge the first bulle, for | surely we thinke it is to moche to be required & unresonable | to be graunted & therefore he and I inly shall devyse a | nother whiche hereaft' we shall send to you (and that | or it be longe) willinge you to make all dylygence to you | possible for impetratinge of this firste whiche presently | I send you for that is it whiche I above all things do desire | & if you cannot attayne it then sollicite the other whiche | my lord cardynall & I shall send you, whiche padventure | shall not be much discrepante from this but that | shalbe made pforma tantu & so to cloke other matters if you | possible may attayne this, desireinge you hartly to use | allways to you possible to gett access to the popes pson | & then to sollicite both the ptestation & this bulle wth | all dylygence & in so doinge I shall recon it the hyst | servyce that ever you did me, & if padventure the | pope do make any stikinge at this bull because padvent' | it is not yet to hym known, but that the mariage | betwene the Queene & me is good & sufficient, you may | shewe hym that I doute not but if he aske the deane | of his roote whiche hathe depely sene the matter | he will shewe hym the truthe thereof & this bull is | not desire | excepte I

be, legitime absolutus ab hoc | matrimonio Katherine,
wherfore I must humbly desire | hym (in consideracon
of such service as I have don | or hereaft may do to his
holynes & the churche) that he | will graunte me the
same makinge as fewe p^rvy therto | as is possible caus-
ing the plumary to sell it in his | presence w^hought
further sight therof w^h I here | say he may lauffully
do (good Mr. Secretary sollicite | thes causes w^h all
bothe selerite & dexterite you | can & with the best
counsell (so they be secrete) | that you can gett) I do
send you this berer by | whom you may assuredly
send me what so en you | will for he will w^h dili-
gence bring it me and wisely | ynoughe to, I fere me
sore that if you fynde not | som by wayes beside
them that my lord cardynall | did devise w^h you to
have acces to the proper pens | it will be long or
you attayne the same wherfore I | instantly desire
you to seke all meanes possible, | pauca sapienti, and
thus fare you well by yo^r | lovinge Mr & Sovereigne,
"H R"

THE STRAY LEAF OF THE CODEX PALATINUS.

Oxford: March 8, 1879.

When in 1843 I described the single leaf of a purple vellum MS. written in large silver letters, which Dr. Todd had picked up in Dublin, and had placed (temporarily, it would now seem by Mr. T. Graves Law's account in the ACADEMY, March 1, p. 190) in the library of Trinity College, it was not possible for me to determine that it was actually a leaf of the Codex Palatinus at Vienna, a manuscript of the Gospels probably of the fifth century, although, guided by Blanchini's facsimiles, I mentioned its close resemblance to the Vienna book. Mr. Law is not quite correct when he says that I gave the text of the leaf in my *Palaeographia*, as I only gave in a foot-note a few of the lines. From the interest attaching even to a single leaf of so venerable a relic, it may be considered desirable that the whole of the four columns upon the two sides of the leaf should be published, especially as it seems to have again disappeared. The text is as follows, from the Gospel of St. Matthew, chapter xiii. :—

"Et audientes non audiant ne intellegant ne quando convertant se Et tunc replebitur in eis proficia Esee dicentes vade et dic populo huic Auditus auditus et non intellegitis et videntes videbitis et non videbitis ingrassatum est enim cor populi huius et auribus graviter audierunt Et oculos eorum ingrava ne convertant se et sanem eos. Vestrae autem beatae aures et oculi vestri qui vident Amen dico vobis quoniam multi profetae et iusti cupierunt videre quae videtis et audire quae auditis et non audierunt Vos autem audite parabolas seminantis Omnis qui audit verbum regni et non intellegit venit malus et rapit quod seminatum est in corde eius hic est iuxta viam seminatus super autem petrosam seminatus hic est qui audit verbum et cum gaudio suscipit illum et non habens radicem in se sed est temporalis Facta autem angustia aut persecutionem propter verbum continuo scandalizatur qui autem in spinis seminatur hic est qui audit verbum et sollicitudo saeculi et divitiarum voluntas suffocat verbum et fit sine fructu In terram autem bona qui seminatus est hic est qui audit verbum et intellegit tunc facit . . .

The letters are uncials, each a quarter of an inch in height, twelve usually occupying a line.

J. O. WESTWOOD.

ON THE RENDERING OF *ἀρμονία* IN ARISTOTLE'S "POLITICS" V. [VIII.] V., 22-25.

Glasgow: March 10, 1879.

The ACADEMY of March 8 contained an unsigned review of *Translations* by Mr. H. Jackson, Mr. W. E. Currey, and myself. The writer says:—"On page 121, in a passage from Aristotle *ἀρμονία* is translated first as 'musical style,' and afterwards as 'harmony': the first is too vague; the latter quite misleading—for *ἀρμονία* here means 'mode,' more nearly expressed by the word 'key' than any other."

Here the writer has missed the point on which

the difficulty of an adequate rendering turns. The passage in the translation runs thus:—

"Melodies, on the other hand [i.e., as opposed to pictures or statues], give us substantive imitations of character. This is manifest. The temper of the several musical styles [*ἡ τῶν ἀρμονιῶν φύσις*] is so essentially distinct that the hearers are affected with a corresponding variety of mood. Some harmonies, such as the semi-Lyidian, tend to wrap the spirit in grief and gloom; others, the luxurious styles, touch it to a soft ease; the Dorian harmony seems alone in producing a sober and sedate frame of mind; the Phrygian harmony kindles enthusiasm. . . . Indeed, the soul seems to have a certain kinship with the harmonies and the measures of Music [*ταῖς ἀρμονίαις καὶ τοῖς ῥυθμοῖς*]: hence many thinkers say that the soul is, or that it implies, a harmony [*ἀρμονία*]."

"Harmonies," in the old Greek sense, were certain arrangements of tetrachords: of those named here, the Mixolydian was taken from G as the tonic or final of the scale, the Dorian from D, the Phrygian from E. "Harmony," in the modern sense, is a proper combination of simultaneous sounds; the study of harmony is the study of chords. If "harmony" had been used to render *ἀρμονία* where there was nothing in the context to define the meaning, this would indeed have been a fault. But when a translator speaks of "the semi-Lyidian harmony," "the Dorian harmony," "the Phrygian harmony," every intelligent reader must see that "harmony" is used in the Greek sense, not in the modern sense.

Further, we require for the last part of the passage a word which will also render *ἀρμονία* in relation to the soul. The original stands thus: καὶ τὰς εἰκε συγγένεια ταῖς ἀρμονίαις καὶ τοῖς ῥυθμοῖς εἶναι διὸ πολλοὶ φασὶ τῶν σοφῶν οἱ μὲν ἀρμονίαν εἶναι τὴν ψυχὴν, οἱ δ' ἔχειν ἀρμονίαν. No version of this would be tolerable which represented *ἀρμονίας* and *ἀρμονίαν* by different terms. Now the *ἀρμονία* ψυχῆς meant by Aristotle here is such as Plato speaks of in the *Phaedo*, *ἀρμονία ἡ τοῦ θεοῦ τε καὶ ἀθανάτου ὁμοφύης τε καὶ συγγενής*, or in the *Timaeus*, αὐτῇ [*ἡ ψυχῇ*] ἀόρατος μὲν, λογισμοῦ δὲ μετέχουσα καὶ ἀρμονίας τῶν νοητῶν αἰεὶ τε ὄντων: and this cannot be well rendered by any English word except "harmony."

As to the reviewer's other objection, that "musical style" is too vague for *ἀρμονία* in the first part of the passage, the answer is simple. Aristotle is there speaking of the *ἀρμονία*, not merely as scales or keys, but in connexion with those kinds of composition which were considered appropriate to each. This is clear from the context. "The nature of the keys" would there be totally inadequate as a version of *ἡ τῶν ἀρμονιῶν φύσις*.

I have had too much experience of the way in which translations are commonly reviewed to be surprised at the writer in the ACADEMY not having seen this, any more than at his having failed to perceive that "Iovem lapidem iurare" (*Translations*, p. 421) was not meant as a verbal equivalent for "to make peace," but in the sense "protest that they mean each other no harm"—which renders the half-playful tone of Horace Walpole's allusion. (The form was, "Si sciens fallo, tum me Diespiter, salva urbe arceque, bonis eiciat, uti ego hunc lapidem.")

Competent criticism of translation is rare: rarer still is the faculty which can seize the subtler conditions of the task, or weigh those scruples between which the judgment of a careful translator must so often be poised.

R. C. JEBB.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY, March 17.—4 P.M. Asiatic.

5 P.M. London Institution: "Life in other Worlds," by R. A. Proctor.

8 P.M. Society of Arts: "Household Sanitary Arrangements," V., by Dr. W. H. Corfield.

8 P.M. Victoria Institute: "Geological Ages and the Mosaic Cosmogony," by the Rev. E. Duke.

TUESDAY, March 18.—3 P.M. Royal Institution: "Animal Development," by Prof. Schiller.

7.45 P.M. Statistical: "The Colony of Victoria: its Progress and Present Position," by H. H. Hayter.

8 P.M. Society of Arts: "Africa, a paramount Necessity for the future Prosperity of the leading Industries of England," by J. Bradshaw.

8 P.M. Civil Engineers: Discussion on "Moveable Bridges."

8 P.M. Colonial Institute.

8.30 P.M. Zoological: "On a new Species of Barn Owl from the Island of Viti-levu," by Dr. G. Hartlaub; "On Female Deer with Antlers," by E. R. Alston; "Remarks on some Parrots living in the Society's Gardens," by P. L. Sclater.

WEDNESDAY, March 19.—7 P.M. Meteorological: "Dew, Mist, and Fog," by G. Dines; "On the Inclination of the Axes of Cyclones," by the Rev. W. C. Ley; "Contributions to the Meteorology of the Pacific—III. Samoan or Navigator Islands," by R. H. Scott.

8 P.M. Society of Arts: "Economic Gardens for Londoners," by W. Mattieu Williams.

8 P.M. British Archaeological: "Ancient Thimbles," by H. Syer Cuming; "Roman Inscription found at Bath," by the Rev. Prebendary Scarth.

THURSDAY, March 20.—3 P.M. Royal Institution: "Sound," by Prof. Tyndall.

7 P.M. Numismatic.

7 P.M. London Institution: "Living Composers for the Piano-forte," by E. Dannreuther.

8 P.M. Linnean: "New Aculeate Hymenoptera from the Sandwich Islands," by F. Smith; "On the sexual Reproduction of Ferns," by T. Sim; "On recent Collections of Birds from South-Eastern New Guinea," by R. Bowdler Sharpe.

8 P.M. Chemical.

8.30 P.M. Royal: "Note on the Arc produced by a Siemens Machine," "Further Note on the Substances which produce the chromospheric Lines," "Note on Young's List of chromospheric Lines," and "Note on some Phenomena attending the Reversal of Lines," by J. Norman Lockyer.

8.30 P.M. Antiquaries.

FRIDAY, March 21.—8 P.M. Philological: "On the Old-Irish Texts of the Ambrosian Library and St. Gall," by Prof. Ascoli.

9 P.M. Royal Institution: "Recent Contributions to the History of Detonating Agents," by Prof. Abel.

SATURDAY, March 22.—3 P.M. Physical: "On Selective Reflection," by Capt. Abney; "On the Fracture of Colloids," by Dr. F. Guthrie.

3 P.M. Royal Institution: "Etching," by Seymour Haden.

3.45 P.M. Botanic.

SCIENCE.

Botanik. Von A. de Bary, Professor an der Universität Strassburg. ("Naturwissenschaftliche Elementarbücher.") (Strassburg: Trübner.)

A GERMAN series of Science Primers has been begun under the editorship of Profs. de Bary and Oscar Schmidt. A series supplementary to these consists of translations of the English Primers edited by Profs. Huxley, Roscoe, and Balfour Stewart. The Primer of Botany has been written by Prof. de Bary, who, considering a different arrangement from that followed in the English Primer necessary, has borrowed nothing from it but a number of woodcuts. The plan followed by Prof. de Bary is to lead the pupil through the vegetable kingdom, bringing occasionally under his notice various illustrative plants, but always such as are at hand and familiar. When the *Cryptogamia* are reached, the difficulties of the pupil obviously begin, since such characters as distinguish even the great groups are not easily seized, and of course the microscope is not a desirable aid at this stage. These characters are, however, so lightly but distinctly drawn (without the stumblingblock of Latin names, which are in every case replaced by the German popular terms) that the pupil may readily acquire and as easily retain them.

The great advantage of the book is that the pupil is not at the outset crammed with a confusing mass of names of organs with which he has not so far learned to associate any mother-plant, and obliged, under penalty of grasping no subsequent fact, to retain these when a sketch of the vegetable kingdom is reached. Instead of this, he is brought into the presence of common plants, and is shown their various parts, of which the structure and functions are told him in out-

line. He thus readily gains a comparative knowledge of the organs while associating their forms with familiar plants. When he afterwards goes further afield and finds other plants, he has no difficulty in noticing to which of these original types they are allied.

GEORGE MURRAY.

Grammatica Copto-Geroglifica, del Cav. Prof. Francesco Rossi. (Roma: Bocca.)

THE Egyptian language is fairly well represented by the earlier phase written in hieroglyphics (of which hieratic is the running hand) and the later phase, or Coptic. So similar are the two conditions that the first interpreters, having once transliterated the ancient characters, looked for their sense to the Coptic dictionaries, and did so with great success. For a philosophical study of the language a knowledge is necessary, not only of the comparative grammar of the Semitic languages, but also, so far as that is attainable, of the group of North-African, and probably also that of South-African, forms of speech. The Egyptian itself must be studied in the hieroglyphic phase, in the demotic or transitional phase, which in the latest period of Egyptian independence came into use to express the vulgar dialect, and is the direct parent of the language of the Egyptian Christians, the Coptic, and this, again, must be examined in its two earlier dialects, the Theban and Memphitic, and its later dialect, the Bashmuric. No one has yet attempted to make so vast an enquiry with the object of publication, though it is certain that M. de Rougé traversed nearly the whole field, with every section of which, except the changes of Coptic, he showed himself acquainted.

Egyptian Grammars have hitherto been each confined to one branch of the language. M. de Rougé in the Grammar intended to form the introduction to his Chrestomathy—a labour, unfortunately, not completed in either section—produced the greater part of the best ancient Egyptian Grammar. It treats of the accidence and syntax of all the parts of speech except the particles, and incidentally of many particles also. The method is marked by the fine critical power of the author. Berber and Semitic forms are cited in illustration, and demotic—and still more constantly Coptic—is traced to the earlier source. Each subject is worked out with the utmost care, and all that is hypothetical is most cautiously advanced.

Dr. Brugsch's Hieroglyphic Grammar is a shorter statement of results by a master of the subject. Its advantage over De Rougé's work is its greater simplicity and the very clear manner in which its main facts are tabulated, particularly in the case of the verbal paradigms. The same scholar has given us the only Demotic Grammar, but has not combined the two phases. Peyron's is still the best Coptic Grammar.

Prof. Rossi has combined the grammatical elements of hieroglyphic and Coptic, each section of his work giving first the old and then the later forms, with indications of the growth which is thus exhibited. It will be evident to all Egyptologists that he is largely indebted to De Rougé and to Peyron. It would, indeed, have been better

had he stated on the title-page this obligation. He is not a mere compiler, though a careless reader of his work, having once traced the main sources, might fail to perceive the originality which he shows.

The work is excellent as a student's first Grammar. It is very clearly written, the proportions of the subject are well observed, and the examples are in sufficient number. It consists of two parts—the Grammar proper and a Syllabary. The most original part of the Grammar is the section on the verb, which is simpler than the corresponding part of his predecessors' works, and only deficient in not having Egyptian paradigms like those of Dr. Brugsch. The sections on the particles strike one as meagre, and this is still more the case with the syntax.

The Syllabary accompanies two lists which give the most usual syllabic and determinative signs. In these lists the alphabetic equivalents of the syllabic signs, and the ideas determined by the determinative signs, are respectively given. Following De Rougé's example, Prof. Rossi has prefixed to the lists a syllabary giving a short article to each syllabic sign, but he has added examples and, in fact, treated the subject more fully. This is useful to the student in all cases, and in those of polyphones of especial value.

Should this work pass into a second edition, we trust the author will add at least a slight sketch of the transition stage, demotic, between each hieroglyphic and Coptic section, and that he will give a series of paradigms, for which space might be made by putting all the articles on the syllabic signs into one uniform shape without regard to style.

The University of Turin has already produced Peyron's Grammar and the present work: when will our richer universities follow this good example and show a true interest in research unconnected with the great science of getting on? Prof. Rossi's words might well be addressed to the theologians of Oxford and Cambridge:—

"Oggi soprattutto che l'attenzione dei dotti è rivolta con particolare ardore alle antichità bibliche, chi non vede qual grande impulso possano ricevere queste ricerche dallo studio dell'antica scrittura dell'Egitto, che con l'Assiria forma le due nazioni che ebbero cogli avvenimenti della storia del popolo di Dio maggior intimità?"

REGINALD STUART POOLE.

CURRENT SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

Health Primers. (Hardwicke and Bogue.) We have received six of these little books, dealing with "Exercise and Training," "The House and its Surroundings," "Alcohol," "Premature Death, its Promotion and Prevention," "Personal Appearances in Health and Disease," and "Baths and Bathing." They are extremely well and sensibly written, as might be expected from the highly competent staff of contributors to whom their preparation has been entrusted. Whether the general public will care to read a small library on such subjects, or will get more good than harm from reading it, is a question we need not try to answer. It is enough if we acknowledge the very satisfactory way in which the scheme is being carried into execution.

The Student's Guide to the Medical Profession, by C. B. Keetley, F.R.C.S. (Macmillan and Co.),

supplies information on such matters as the choice of a medical school, methods of study, examinations, degrees and qualifications, &c. The information is good of its kind; but an hour's conversation with a judicious adviser will give the medical aspirant more useful knowledge, because more adapted to his individual needs, than any number of such guides as this. The author's statements are, upon the whole, both correct and impartial; his style is occasionally flippant. A special chapter for "ladies who propose to study medicine" has been contributed by Mrs. Garrett-Anderson.

Notes on Physiology for the Use of Students Preparing for Examination. By H. Ashby, M.B. (Longmans.) As the private note-book of an industrious student who has been reading the usual text-books, this might be considered a very praiseworthy piece of work; intended, as it apparently is, to serve as a substitute for the independent study of such text-books, it deserves nothing but blame as a fresh addition to the long list of cram-books which are becoming an intolerable nuisance both to teachers and examiners. Mr. Ashby has performed his task conscientiously and carefully; but it is a pity that he ever undertook it.

The Preservation of Health in Tropical Climates. By G. W. Thomson. (Edinburgh: MacLachlan and Stewart.) A popular lecture, containing much sensible advice to Europeans about to emigrate to a hot climate.

A Handbook of Nursing for the Home and the Hospital. By Catherine J. Wood. (Cassell, Petter and Galpin.) If "many years' practical experience in nursing and in training others" were a qualification for writing a book, this ought to have been a very good one. The writer tells us at the outset that "in nursing, an ounce of practice is worth a pound of theory." It is to be regretted that she did not keep this wholesome aphorism before her while engaged in composition. What practical hints she gives are, on the whole, trustworthy; more especially as regards the nursing of sick children. But the laboured and pretentious style in which they are expressed and the lack of systematic arrangement take away from their usefulness not a little. Moreover, they are mixed up with ethical platitudes and pathological doctrines in a most confusing way, the latter being sometimes incorrect and always out of place. A quarter of the book is taken up by a glossary of medical terms, most of which have no connexion with nursing. On what principle these terms have been selected it is impossible to make out; they seem to have been plucked at random from an antiquated lexicon. The definitions supplied are not always accurate, and are for the most part insufficient. Altogether the book is a most disappointing production, not likely to promote the improvement of nursing, an object which the writer professes, no doubt in all sincerity, to aim at.

Elements of Comparative Anatomy. By Carl Gegenbaur. Translated by F. Jeffreys Bell, B.A. The Translation revised by E. Ray Lankester, M.A., F.R.S. (Macmillan and Co.) Prof. Lankester justly points out in his Preface that the English student does not possess any modern work on Comparative Anatomy, properly so called, Huxley's well-known manuals dealing only with Animal Morphology. No one in this country is better qualified to supply the want than Prof. Lankester himself; but, as he has preferred to introduce the best German treatise on the subject, we can only express our thanks to him for the admirable way in which he has carried his design into effect. For the accuracy of the translation executed by Mr. Bell he makes himself responsible; and he has thrown into his Preface a statement of the chief differences between the views of Prof. Gegenbaur on a variety of important points and those usually taught in this country. The volume is very handsomely got up,

and illustrated with a profusion of excellent woodcuts, mostly diagrammatic.

Total Abstinence. A Course of Addresses by B. W. Richardson, M.D., F.R.S. (Macmillan and Co.) The first address of the series was delivered before a medical society, the remaining four, at the instance of the National Temperance League, to a lay audience. No new facts or arguments are to be found in them; but they are very readable, notwithstanding, or perhaps because of, their somewhat controversial tone. It would, of course, be a mistake to look for a perfectly impartial statement of the good and evil we owe to alcohol in the writings of a professed and enthusiastic advocate of total abstinence. But so much has of late been written on both sides of the question that no one specially interested in it need be at a loss for information.

A Manual of Anthropometry. By Charles Roberts, F.R.C.S. (J. and A. Churchill.) This is a very complete and elaborate guide to the physical examination and measurement of the human body—too complete and elaborate it may be thought by some who attempt to fill in the anthropometrical chart which faces the title-page. The author tells us that it is only the first instalment of a larger work on the *Physical Development and Proportions of the Human Body*. It is designed for the use of travellers and others who are brought into contact with comparatively unknown races of men, and for persons desirous of assisting the Committee of the British Association engaged in investigating the physical proportions and the racial elements of our British population.

The Family Physician: a Manual of Domestic Medicine. By Physicians and Surgeons of the principal London Hospitals. (Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.) This large, well-printed, and, upon the whole, well-written volume is obviously designed to take its place as a standard work. Compared with most of its older rivals, it is worthy of much commendation. The information conveyed is generally both full and correct; and the subject-matter of the different parts is brought well up to the date of publication. In common with all its tribe, however, the book is a dangerous one; its study is calculated to drive a nervous person into suicide, a rash one into experiments on himself and those about him not unlikely to furnish material for an inquest. The various anonymous compilers are not all of them equally alive to the risk of their instructions being misunderstood and misapplied by an untrained public. The chapter on diseases of children, for instance, contains hardly anything open to objection on this score; while that on the "Treatment of Diseases," though sensible in the main and often amusing, is full of pitfalls for the unwary. Fancy an invalid, or even his nurse, being allowed to trifle with such potent drugs as digitalis, free phosphorus, and nitrite of amyl! Better the homoeopathic medicine-chest, with its infinitesimal dilutions. The chapters on "Hygiene" and "Nursing" are extremely good, and likely to be useful; that on "Materia Medica," on the other hand, is far too elaborate, and contains a great deal of dangerous information—at once too technical and not technical enough. As there seems to be a demand for books of this sort, it is well that the supply should be furnished by competent hands; but the preliminary advice offered by one of the writers to a patient suffering from certain nervous symptoms may fairly be extended to the entire class of invalids:—"If you have any books or pamphlets on the subject of your complaint, put them in the fire at once—this is essential."

Domestic Medicine and Hygiene. By William J. Russell, M.B. Second Edition. (W. H. Everett.) A remarkably cheap and handy volume, calculated to be of service to emigrants and others who are beyond the reach of medical assistance. The subject-matter is very well arranged, and the excellent table of contents with

which the book opens, together with the full index at the end, makes it an easy matter to find any required information at a moment's notice.

Scientific Materialism and Ultimate Conceptions. By Sidney Billing. (Bickers and Son.) This attempt to overthrow "the pseudo-philosophy, characteristic of the period," is as bewildering as a haschisch-eater's dream, and may fairly be said to justify the motto on its title-page—"ignoramus ignorabimus." The author is evidently a man of very wide reading, and in the extraordinary number and variety of his quotations he rivals the late Mr. Buckle. The *Philosophical Transactions*, the *Memoirs of Robert Houdin*, Byron's *Don Juan*, and Macaulay's *Essays*, are all laid under contribution. The work is divided into chapters, and the chapters are broken up into paragraphs: but even these typographical aids to comprehension are quite inadequate to help the reader through what seems a chaotic medley of incoherent statements and rambling arguments. It is only just that we should give the chief outcome of the writer's labours in his own words:—

"If there be Law in Nature, there must have been an antecedent to Law. If there be Form in Nature, there must have been Intelligence to arrange it—hence an antecedent to form. If there be Order in Nature, there must have been Direction, direction is the antithesis of accident or chance. If the Earth spontaneously produced (*acquiescens generatio*), it was fecund through Vital Energy. If in Nature there was Generation, it had an antecedent. From law results homogeneity and order, showing a purpose in its institution; if Purpose, then intelligent direction. As in Nature are found LAW, FORM, ORDER, VITAL ENERGY, GENERATION, DIRECTION, PURPOSE and INTELLIGENCE, then Intelligence was perfected in their UNITY. If there be Unity, there must be Individualism, if an Individualism, then a Personification; and we arrive at an individualised or personified intelligence, hence at *Essence or Spirit*. This Essence or Spirit would comprise in itself all *Wisdom and Power*, for in it and through it, the Lessons of Nature teach, are all PHENOMENA, hence it is Omniscient, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, hence an ENTITY."

OBITUARY.

PROF. T. K. CLIFFORD.

A FEW years ago an eminent living German mathematician, soon after his arrival in this country, asked a friend, "Who is Clifford? what has he written?" Cayley, in his letters, often writes: "Clifford says so and so." It will be difficult in the limited space we can command, and without the opportunity of turning to the various papers which Prof. Clifford has of late years produced, to give an adequate account of the various contributions which this profound, though young, mathematician has made to mathematical science. In his case, perhaps, more than in the case of any other English mathematician of recent date, there was very much done in the way of suggestion. We may quote in this connexion a remark of Prof. Sylvester: "All that Prof. Clifford adds is the very pith and marrow of the matter which before was wanting." For though he has put a good deal of his work into print, yet as he was an eminently suggestive speaker on, as well as exponent of, science, he often in the discussion of a paper has clearly shown that the subject had been carefully thought out by himself, and so he was able to throw out hints which enabled others to advance still further the subjects which they had hitherto almost looked upon as their own. As regards the multiplicity and many-sidedness of his ideas, he approached the great mathematician Gauss, and no doubt had time and health served he would more nearly have reached the same high platform.

A profound mathematician, as we have said, he yet possessed a marvellous power of unfolding these deep mysteries, and if he failed to make his remarks understood, it was not his fault but rather that of the auditor, or at any rate the difficulty of the subject; and withal there was such a complete

absence of ostentation, such an evident desire to make the subject clear, that no one could ever think of him as talking for talking's sake. The writer's own experience would lead him to say that he has rarely known him rise to comment on a paper unless he had been specially asked to do so. He had in a high degree the qualifications of a thoroughly popular lecturer on scientific subjects, and hence some of his essays in this direction have achieved a very high success. We refer more particularly to his lecture on Mind. The earliest printed mathematical work of his is, perhaps, a question in the *Educational Times* (a property of the rectangular hyperbola), March 1863; his first solution is of a question about a curve of the third order, in the same journal for June 1863. He was at this time, we believe, a student at King's College. This early work indicates a student of some inventive power, who was also possessed already of considerable analytical skill. His contributions soon rose in value and elegance, and placed him in the foremost rank of mathematical students. At Cambridge he at once made his mark, and enjoyed there the reputation of being the only man who could understand a certain professor's lucubrations. In these more recent times it is possible that on some points the tables are turned, and Clifford's talk has become *caviare* to more than "the general."

As in the case of some other original men, he did not carry off the highest honours of the Tripos; but he came out Second Wrangler and Second Smith's Prizeman in 1867. He had in June of the previous year joined the ranks of the London Mathematical Society, and to the *Proceedings* of this society he became, while health allowed, a frequent and valued contributor. His most important papers were read in 1872. At this early date he had made himself master of Hankel's *Vorlesungen über die complexen Zahlen und ihre Functionen*. The subject of complex numbers was a favourite with him, and he repeatedly showed that this was the case in his subsequent communications, and in his only printed book *On Kinematic*. In this work many of the thoughts given out in his communications (as "Remarks on a Theory of the Exponential Function derived from the equation $\frac{dn}{dt} = p$,"

"Graphic Representation of the Harmonic Components of a Periodic Motion;" "The Foundations of the Differential Calculus and of Dynamics," &c.), and which he did not apparently at the time fully work out, found a place. As a result of his study of complex numbers and of the algebras of Rowan Hamilton, Peirce, and Grassmann, we have his preliminary sketch of biquaternions. It would take up too much space to give any analysis of this, or, indeed, of many of his other papers—they are so closely reasoned and so purely mathematical as to be incapable of condensation. It must suffice here to say that, as the author states, "Hamilton's biquaternion is a quaternion with complex coefficients; but it is convenient (as Peirce remarks) to suppose from the beginning that all scalars are complex." So Prof. Clifford gets rid of the old signification, and appropriates it to his own use. It may be said that the subject of Biquaternions is the *algebra of screws*.*

In 1876 Prof. Clifford sketched out his "Classification of Geometric Algebras." This promised to be a communication of the first value; but the subject had to be put on one side, and ultimately mathematicians have had to content themselves with the brief sketch, "Applications of Grassmann's Extensive Algebra" (*American Journal of Mathematics*, No. 4, 1878). Still on the same lines runs his last communication on this subject, "On the Classification of Loci," made in

* We note also in his papers of this year (1872) a singularly elegant extension, "a theorem relating to Polyhedra, analogous to Mr. Cotterill's theorem on Plane Polygons."

brief to the Mathematical Society, and more fully to the Royal Society (May, 1878). This is a very fine paper—perhaps the finest yet published. It is said that not contenting himself with the pitiful space of three dimensions, Prof. Clifford worked in four-dimensional space, and there met with such success that he extended his researches to the most general space of n dimensions. In this last paper we have a galaxy of remarkable propositions. He shows that “a curve of order n in flat space of n dimensions (and no less) is always universal,” and that “every curve of order n in flat space of $n-1$ dimensions is either universal or elliptic.” These properties he proves in his usual brilliant manner. In the latter portion of the paper he takes up another of his favourite subjects (closely allied, however, to the others)—that of Abelian functions. In this direction perhaps as much as in any, will the mathematical world mourn the loss of one who had mastered the intricacies of the Hyperelliptic and Abelian integrals.

“I fear that our colleague, Prof. Clifford, would hardly listen to us if we were to appeal to him to undertake this task [of writing on the above-named integrals]; but at least we may express the hope that he may be able to continue the profound researches which he has commenced on this great branch of analysis.”*

We are disposed to think that the number of those who are acquainted with Riemann's work in this country could be counted on the digits of one hand. Prof. Clifford has contributed a clear paper “On the Canonical Form and Dissection of a Riemann's Surface” (June 1877), in which his object was to prove the propositions in a concise and elementary manner. We have no space for an account of his lectures on scientific subjects, but there is the less occasion for this as they are in the hands of the many already; nor have we space to dwell upon his contributions to the chemico-algebraical theory, which drew forth Prof. Sylvester's hearty admiration. And we can only refer to Prof. Stanley Jevons's *Principles of Science* (p. 143), for an account of Prof. Clifford's types of compound statement, involving four classes. Prof. Jevons, no mean mathematician, had asserted that the mere ascertainment of the precise number of types would require some years, but Prof. Clifford in a comparatively short time accomplished the task (see also *Proceedings of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester*, vol. xiv., p. 88, for the original paper).

The present writer has attempted to avoid hyperbolic statements, but it is difficult for a mathematician to use ordinary language in treating of Prof. Clifford's work: he was unmistakeably one of the foremost English mathematicians of the present time, and had he lived would have done much more to maintain that position. A weak constitution and too close attention to his favourite studies have resulted in our great loss. In his relations to his brother mathematicians he maintained the same amiable bearing which endeared him to a large circle of private friends.

The position taken up by Prof. Clifford in philosophy was never comprehensively defined by himself. We have to collect it from papers published at various times in the last few years, some of which had been given as lectures, while others, including perhaps the most important, had been read at the meetings of the Metaphysical Society. In pure metaphysics we may specify his articles on “Body and Mind” (*Fortnightly Review*, 1875) and “The Nature of Things-in-themselves” (*Mind*, 1878, but written earlier); in ethics, “The Scientific Basis of Morals” (*Contemporary Review*, 1875), “Right and Wrong” (*Fortnightly Review*, 1876); and in the application of ethical theory to social and religious questions, “The Ethics of Belief” (*Contemporary Review*, 1876), “The Bearing of Morals on Religion” (*Fortnightly Review*, 1877),

and an article on Virchow's much-discussed address on the freedom of science, which appeared last spring in the *Nineteenth Century*.

His leading principle was that there is no distinction in kind between different regions of knowledge, and that scientific method is one and the same everywhere. Thus his philosophy was above all things empirical. He recognised no guide to truth beyond experience, and no certainty beyond scientific probability. But, though completely naturalist, his view of the world was not materialist. The speculative untenability of materialism was for him a point almost too plain to be discussed, and his metaphysical creed was a form of idealist Monism which appears, with more or less variation in details, to be gaining acceptance in the scientific world, and especially among those who, like Prof. Clifford, regard Mr. Darwin's great discovery as hardly less important for philosophy than for science. So far as it can be put in one sentence, it amounts to this: that Mind is the only ultimate reality in Nature, and that Consciousness is not the type of Mind, but a special and complex modification of it. While Prof. Clifford fully recognised the value of the work done in psychology by the English or Association school, and went along with them for most practical purposes, he differed from them in going much farther and hoping for much more definition in the region of metaphysics proper.

In the same way, while his theory of ethics might be classed as utilitarian in the widest sense, as against all transcendental systems, it differed from current utilitarianism in laying much more weight on historical processes of development, and in seeking to explain the apparently simple elements of moral feeling as results of those processes. Again, he regarded moral judgments and emotions (herein agreeing with Mr. Darwin, and coming round in part to the old Greek view) as distinctly social and not individual in their function. The conception of the individual self as “a mark of reference for motives” is treated by him as subsequent, both historically and rationally, to that of the community. Morality is the art of social conduct, directed to “the advantage of the community as such in the struggle for existence;” and its precepts embody “the social craft or art of living together” which “has been learned by society as other crafts are learned by individuals.” The supremacy of conscience lies in its bearing witness to the common social judgment of mankind. It “springs out of the habit of judging things from the point of view of all and not of one.”

Closely connected with this doctrine is a point more than once insisted on by Prof. Clifford with especial force and eloquence: namely, that ordinary human and social motives are perfectly competent to account for and to preserve morality without the aid of supernatural premisses or sanctions.

PROF. DAVID PAGE.

By the death of Prof. David Page, LL.D., geology loses one of its most popular expositors. Following in the wake of Hugh Miller, he kept up an interest in geological science by his numerous writings, which were characterised by a graceful and flowing style rarely commanded by men of science. We have before us a list of his works on geology and physical geography to the number of fifteen. Taking up the study originally as an amateur, he ultimately devoted himself to it professionally; and on the establishment of the College of Physical Science at Newcastle, he was appointed Professor of Geology. It is not given to everyone to become an original observer, and in Prof. Page's case, field-work was almost entirely prevented by physical infirmity. But as a lucid expositor of the discoveries of others, his work deserves generous acknowledgment.

SCIENCE NOTES.

ASTRONOMY.

Observations de Poulcova. Vol. IX. Mesures micrométriques des étoiles.—The long-expected volume of the double-star observations made by Otto Struve with the great Poulcova refractor has at last been published. The observations extend over a period of thirty-seven years. Since the foundation of the Imperial Russian Observatory in 1839, the great instrument has been chiefly devoted to the study of the relative motions in the stellar systems, and this principal task, though interrupted from time to time by other labours, has been steadily prosecuted up to the present time. Since the observations have all been made by the same observer, and always according to the same principles, they possess the advantage of furnishing for a long period data of identical character, and in which any changes of personal errors are only due to the greater age or the more mature experience of the observer. The stars first selected for observation were those for which the *Mesurée Micrométrique* of W. Struve had indicated relative motion, or for which further measures were required to confirm suspected motion. To these were added the new double stars discovered at Poulcova during the survey of the heavens which was undertaken there soon after the erection of the observatory, and in the course of which all the stars down to the 7th or 7.8th magnitude, and situated not beyond 15° south of the equator, were carefully scrutinised. The list was further extended by including the very close double stars already observed by W. Struve, and, beside some others, a number of stars of each order of distance, which were specially selected for the purpose of comparing the measures of O. Struve with those of his father and of other observers. The list had to be curtailed by omitting stars south of the equator; for practical experience soon showed that the southern limit of the Dorpat Catalogue, 15° of southern declination, which had also been fixed upon as the southern limit for the Poulcova Catalogue, was too low and that the occasions were too rare, when, under the sixtieth degree of latitude, stars of southern declination could be observed with advantage. Accordingly, of double stars situated south of the equator, only a few systems of special interest were observed. The present volume contains the results of 4,030 measures of 478 double and multiple stars of the Dorpat Catalogue, and 2,050 measures of 427 double stars discovered at Poulcova. Another volume containing the rest of the observations will follow. A full account of the telescope and micrometer is to be found in the *Description de l'Observatoire Central*, which was published by W. Struve in 1845. At the time of its erection the telescope was the most powerful in the world. The aperture of the object-glass is 14.93 inches and the focal length 22.55 feet. It is very satisfactory to learn that after a continued use of thirty-seven years the optical qualities of the telescope have not suffered in the least. The images are stated to be as neat and precise as they were in 1839, and there is no trace of any diminution of the transparency of the glasses. O. Struve attributes this result to the care with which all the surfaces of the lenses of the object-glass are cleaned every fourth year. The metallic portions of the instrument, however, have suffered in the severe Russian climate, and there is a number of small defects, the result of time and of frequent usage. The clock motion, especially, has demanded much attention, and, when the temperature falls below -10° Réaumur (= +9°.5 Fahrenheit), the oil begins to freeze, and the motion of the telescope becomes irregular. The experiments instituted for determining the effect of temperature on the focal length of the object-glass show that the focus changes 0.0101 inches for 1° Réaumur (or 0.0045 inches for 1° Fahrenheit), a quantity which is sufficient to alter the image sensibly. In consequence the focus must be altered several

* Prof. Henry S. Smith's Presidential Address, November 9, 1876.

times in the course of an evening, especially if the temperature changes rapidly. The alterations required would be much less, were the tube of the refractor of metal instead of being made of wood. The telescope is provided with two filar-micrometers of identical pattern, only one of which, however, has been regularly made use of, since the second was merely occasionally employed, while the first was being cleaned or being fitted with fresh webs. The webs used were the finest spider-lines which could be procured. When new they appeared under an angle of about $0^{\circ}15'$ (corresponding to a diameter of $\frac{1}{5000}$ inch), but after a time their apparent diameter increased to $0^{\circ}2'$ or $0^{\circ}3'$. Only two parallel webs were visible in the field of view, each web being carried independently by its own frame and moved by its micrometer-screw. The magnifying powers of the eye-pieces almost exclusively used in the measurements range from 413 to 1169. The angular value of a revolution of the screw was determined by several methods: by transits of stars, by measurements of terrestrial objects the distances of which from the instrument were accurately determined, and by measuring a series of successive differences of declination of ten stars in the cluster of Perseus, the sum of which, being equal to the difference of declination of the two outer stars, could be ascertained with great exactness by the meridian instruments. The progressive errors of the screws were found to be insensible in measurements of double stars, and the periodical errors, besides being ascertained to be very small, were nearly eliminated by the mode of observing. In the year 1853 it appeared desirable to examine by measurements of artificial double stars how far the measures were free from constant errors. The first experiences, gained with the help of a simple apparatus, led to the unexpected discovery of very great systematic errors in the measured position-angles, the existence of which had scarcely been suspected before. In order to make proper use of the observations, it became, therefore, of the highest importance to determine the laws of these errors with great exactness, and considerable parts of the favourable seasons of 1853, 1855, and 1856 were spent upon experiments for that purpose. An apparatus was constructed consisting of a circular iron disc nearly three feet in diameter, perforated in the centre and fastened there at right angles to the end of a hollow axis. By means of a plate attached to the axis the apparatus was mounted upon an old tower at a distance of nearly 9,000 feet, and could then be so adjusted that the plane of the iron disc was perpendicular to the line of vision from the telescope. A number of small holes had been drilled in suitably-selected and carefully-measured positions of the disc, and the artificial stars were then produced by the ends of ivory studs placed in some of the holes, while the other holes were closed by black buttons. Struve states that the white ivory studs upon the dull black disc looked wonderfully like real stars seen in favourable conditions of the atmosphere. Series of measurements of these artificial stars then furnished the data for determining the personal errors of the observer. These experiments and measurements were repeated ten years later, in 1866, and a third time in 1876. The three series of observations are in fair agreement, and the results are very curious. Struve's discussion shows that his observed position-angles and distances require large corrections, which depend partly on the apparent distance of the two stars as seen in the eye-piece and partly on the angle between the direction of the stars and the vertical, or rather on the angle between the direction of the stars and the direction of the observer's two eyes. Whether these corrections are in Struve's case exceptionally large or not can at present only be surmised, since similar investigations on the part of other double-star observers are wanting, and the evidence which is otherwise available is perhaps not yet suffi-

ciently strong. The comparison of the results of his own observations made at different periods show some discrepancies which are not accounted for and indicate some still hidden source. From a comparison of the Dorpat and Pulcowa observations Struve draws the inference that, while his father measured the distances of very close double stars with very great accuracy, his measures of distances above $2''$ are too small, and that the error reaches its maximum of perhaps a quarter of a second at the distance of $6''$ or $8''$. This inference is of great interest, and all the more as it bears upon the question which nearly half-a-century ago was raised by the differences between W. Struve's measured distances and those measured by Bessel with the Königsberg heliometer. The latter instrument is not well adapted for measuring very close stars, but the distances beyond $4''$ appear to have been measured by Bessel without any sensible error. Struve also compares his observations of double stars with those of Dawes, Dembowski, Secchi, and Dunér; but the mere remark must be here sufficient. The whole discussion will help to bring home to observers the necessity of greater caution and greater care in making their observations, and will induce them to use the best available methods for tracing the sources of systematic errors.

Asten's Researches on the Theory of Encke's Comet. II.—Results deduced from the Apparitions, 1819-1875.—A perusal of Emil von Asten's paper, lately published in the *Memoirs of the Petersburg Academy*, in which he has embodied the results of his calculations referring to Encke's comet, must deepen the regret of astronomers at the loss which astronomical science has suffered by the premature death of such an industrious and capable worker. The calculations of the perturbations of the periodical comet which bears Encke's name had been performed by Encke himself and by some of his disciples for the period from 1819 to 1848 with the requisite completeness; but, chiefly owing to the great absorption of time and labour occasioned by the newly-discovered minor planets, Encke had not found it feasible to continue the calculations for his comet with the previous completeness, but had to be content with approximate computations which were sufficient to furnish the necessary predictions and to guide the observations. It was, of course, essential that the motions of the comet should be strictly investigated. In Asten was found the astronomer competent and willing to undertake the laborious task, and it is a consolation to know that he was at least spared to finish it.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

MUSICAL ASSOCIATION.—(Monday, March 3.)

DR. STAINER in the Chair. The Rev. Sir F. G. Ouseley, Bart., President of the Association, read a paper "On early Italian and Spanish Treatises on Music." The ground covered by the paper was considerably wider than that indicated by the above title. It embraced a complete view of the bibliography of the subject in early and mediæval times, with sketches of the contents of the more important works, followed by a more detailed treatment of the Italian and Spanish works of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Many of the books were shown on the table. Boethius, A.D. 470-526, was the first author treated. He was a thorough Pythagorean, and discussed such matters as the Greek modes, the Pythagorean doctrines of the ratios of intervals, &c. Boethius was the only text-book of general authority for a thousand years; yet the judgment of modern musicians is that he teaches nothing that is of the least importance in the art of music. The rise of counterpoint is fixed about the thirteenth century. The multitude of bibliographical details for which the paper will be chiefly valuable cannot be dealt with in an abstract. A discussion arose, in which Drs. Stainer and Bridge, Messrs. Helmore, Chappell, Cummings, and others took part.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—(Tuesday, March 4.)

PROF. W. H. FLOWER, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair. The Secretary read a Report on the additions made to the society's menagerie during the month of February 1879, and called special attention to a purple-crested Tanager (*Corythaix porphyrocephala*), presented by the Rev. J. A. Gould, and to a very beautiful lizard from New Mexico (*Crotaphytus wislizeni*), presented by Lieut.-Col. R. Vivian.—Mr. Slater exhibited and made remarks on examples of two rare fruit-pigeons, of the genus *Carpophaga*.—Mr. L. M. D'Alberty exhibited some new and rare birds, obtained during his recent expedition up the Fly River, New Guinea.—Prof. Newton exhibited on behalf of Mr. J. Robinson, of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, a specimen of *Sylvia nisoria*, believed to have been killed at Cambridge many years ago.—A communication was read from Mr. L. Taczanowski containing a list of the birds collected by Messrs. Stolzmann and Jelski in Northern Peru in 1878. Fifty-six species were enumerated, several of which were new to science.—Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe read some notes on birds obtained on Kina-Balu Mountain, in North-Western Borneo, by the collectors of Mr. Treacher, among which were several species new to science.—Mr. F. Jeffrey Bell read the first portion of some observations on the characters of the Echinoidea. The present paper contained remarks on the species of the genus *Brissus* and on the allied forms *Meoma* and *Metalia*.—Communications were read from the late Mr. F. Smith, containing the descriptions of new species of *Hymenoptera* from Central America; from Mr. W. A. Forbes, containing a synopsis of the Meliphagine genus *Myzomela*, to which were also added the descriptions of two new species; and from the Rev. O. P. Cambridge, containing descriptions of some new and little-known species of Araneidae, principally belonging to the genus *Gasteracantha*.

ROYAL SOCIETY.—(Thursday, March 6.)

W. SPOTTISWOODE, Esq., D.C.L., President, in the Chair. The following papers were read:—"Observations on the Physiology of the Nervous System of the Crayfish (*Astacus fluviatilis*)," by J. Ward; "Preliminary Report upon the Comatulæ of the Challenger Expedition," by P. H. Carpenter; "On the Characters of the Pelvis in the Mammalia, and the Conclusions respecting the Origin of Mammals which may be based upon them," by Prof. Huxley.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—(Thursday, March 6.)

DR. GLADSTONE, F.R.S., President, in the Chair. The following papers were read:—"On the Quantitative Blowpipe Assay of Mercury," by G. Attwood. The method consists in distilling the compounds either alone or mixed with litharge or with oxalate of potash and cyanide of potassium in ingeniously-contrived retorts of glass or steel, the whole apparatus being three to four inches long, collecting the mercury in water, and weighing it when dry.—"On some Points in the Analysis of Combustible Gases, and in the Construction of Apparatus," by J. W. Thomas. The author has succeeded in exploding marsh-gas, &c., with almost theoretical quantities of oxygen by using a diminished tension, about 160 m.m. As less oxygen is thus required, the author has shortened the eudiometer tube to 500 m.m., and thereby increased the delicacy of the apparatus; he has also reintroduced a steel tap of, however, perfect tightness, and has in several points perfected and simplified the ordinary Frankland's and McLeod's apparatus. The steel-face plates connecting the laboratory and measuring-tubes have also been abandoned.—"On the Action of isomorphous Salts in exciting the Crystallisation of super-saturated Solutions of each other, and some Experiments on super-saturated Solutions of Mixed Salts," by J. M. Thomson. The author finds that a crystal to act as a nucleus must be not only isomorphous, but chemically similar, as to the water of crystallisation, to the substance in solution. Interesting results were obtained by introducing a nucleus into a super-saturated solution of two non-isomorphous bodies; under certain conditions a separation of these two bodies could be effected.—"On the isomeric Dinaphthyls," by Watson Smith. The author has determined the vapour densities of the dinaphthyls by means of V. Meyer's new apparatus, and gives in his paper the results of the reaction of carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, &c., on naphthalene.

ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—(Thursday, March 6.)

R. H. SODEN SMITH, Esq., F.S.A., V.-P., in the Chair. Mr. W. Delisle Powles exhibited a collection of objects of gold from ancient Indian graves in Columbia, and spoke at some length upon these interesting ornaments. They were the relics of the Chipcha tribe, and were found in graves at the depth of fifteen feet below the surface, together, in some instances, with deer horns, which were possibly trophies. Mr. Powles described the religious rites and ceremonies of this ancient people, and explained the manner in which they made annual offerings to their deities by casting quantities of treasures of the kind exhibited into certain lakes. Efforts had been made to recover some of the antiquities thus deposited; but in consequence of an unfortunate accident by which the explorers had been asphyxiated in a shaft driven for this purpose, the attempts had been temporarily abandoned. The tribe suffered greatly at the hands of the Spaniards in the sixteenth century; and it was much to be deplored that its literature had thus perished. The chairman said that the objects presented technically some very curious points, and had a general analogy with other gold ornaments of savage tribes—such for instance as those of the Ashantees, who carried on the earlier traditions of interlaced wire-like work by casting. Real platted work belonged to an earlier and higher civilisation. After alluding to the idea that the gold was made malleable by some wax process, the chairman drew a comparison between the skilfully made rose-rings exhibited and the penannular Celtic rings. The pottery and weapons of flint found in the same graves will be exhibited at a future meeting.—Mr. W. Burges exhibited a pair of mediæval compasses, and a small figure in brass of St. George with the dragon, fifteenth century.—Mr. W. Brown sent a collection of documents from the time of Richard I. to the sixteenth century. Some of the seals were very interesting; two represented so-called “mascelled” armour, and others were quite unique.—Mr. W. J. Bernhard Smith sent a fine sixteenth-century sword from Malta, and a delicately chased Japanese arrow-head of steel, with openwork centre serving for two designs.—Mr. R. Ready exhibited four miniatures:—1. Mary Queen of Scots; 2. Lord Chief Justice Holt; 3. The first Lord Crew; 4. A beautiful portrait of the second Lord Crew.—Mr. Hartshorne sent a finely chased candlestick of copper gilt, temp. George II.—The Rev. C. F. R. Palmer contributed the first portion of a paper on the “History of the Priory of Dartford,” giving a careful account of the foundation of this mother-house of the sisters of the Dominican order.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—(Friday, March 7.)

ROBERT HARRISON, Esq., Treasurer, in the Chair. Mr. Richard Garnett, Superintendent of the Reading Room, British Museum, read a paper “On Subject-Indexes to the *Transactions of Learned Societies*.” Mr. Garnett thought that the proposal to make a subject-index to scientific papers should not be laid aside. The only serious difficulty was that of cost. The author-index of the Royal Society had already laid the foundation. The titles in this should be cut out and pasted on separate cards, which might next be roughly classified; and men of science might then be induced to revise this classification. Means to print would surely be forthcoming. As the work would include papers in foreign languages, it would be supported abroad as well as here. In the case of the literary societies no such preliminary work had been accomplished. But the need for a subject-index to their papers also was very much felt.—Mr. J. Vernon Whitaker read a paper “On the use of the Printing Press in Libraries,” pointing out that for small libraries its economy can hardly be admitted.—The Hon. Noel Waldegrave exhibited a machine he had invented for cutting up library slips; and Mr. H. R. Tedder, one of the secretaries, exhibited specimens of book-props in use at the Athenæum Club.

PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—(Friday, March 7.)

Dr. J. A. H. MURRAY, President, in the Chair. Mr. Charles G. Leland read a paper “On the Origin of the Gypsies.” While agreeing with Captain Burton that the Jäts of North-Western India had probably furnished the main stock of the race, Mr. Leland also

thought that the Luris of Persia and the Doms had greatly contributed to form it. He suggested that the words *Dom* (a male gypsy), *Domri* (female gypsy), and *Domnipana* (gypsyhood) reappear in the English *Rom*, *Romni*, and *Romnipen*, which have the same meanings. He also pointed out other analogies between these races. He suggested that as Indian gypsies had, before their appearance in Europe, passed themselves off in Egypt as religious pilgrims from Yemen, this precedent probably induced them to do the same in Christendom, and that from this they called themselves Egyptians. As to the much-disputed term *Zingari*, Mr. Leland inclined to put faith in the gypsies' own account of its derivation from *Chen*, the first gypsy chief who left India for Turkey, and who married his sister *Guin*, whence the word *Chenguin*. Mr. Leland attached particular importance to the fact that from their first arrival in Europe the gypsies were known as eaters of animals which had died a natural death—a characteristic of the pre-Aryan races, and especially of the Doms—that they were musicians and actors like the Luris, and jockeys and bold robbers like the Jäts.—Mr. H. Nicol then read part of a paper “On the Old French Vowel-end Law,” first enunciated in 1871 by Prof. Zupitza.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY.—(Saturday, March 8.)

PROF. W. G. ADAMS, F.R.S., in the Chair. Prof. Ayrton brought forward a new theory of the Terrestrial Magnetism originated by himself and Prof. Perry, of the Imperial Engineering College, Japan. It is well known that metal cages act as screens against induction in the case of static electricity or electricity at rest, and hence Clerk Maxwell, at the British Association meeting for 1876, suggested that no earth connexion was necessary for lightning conductors, since a cage would be sufficient. But dynamic electricity is different from static in this respect, and Profs. Ayrton and Perry found that even a thick block of copper will not screen a coil of wire from the induction of a current flowing in a neighbouring one. Some experiments of Dr. Muirhead, not yet published, would seem to favour the view that there was a series of intermittent changes of potential, and that the inductive effect was due to a difference in the epochs of the currents in the two coils. It was found by Helmholtz that a quantity of static electricity in mechanical motion performs work. Conversely Mr. Crookes finds that the stream of molecules from a — pole *in vacuo* is electrified (and may be deflected by a magnet). It is upon these facts that Profs. Ayrton and Perry have based their theory, which is easily explained by supposing the earth to be an isolated sphere with a static charge residing on its surface. Then, since each electrified particle at the surface will be moving relatively to a point in the interior, it follows that the interior must be magnetic. The theory is independent of the substance of the interior, but, in order to simplify the working, the authors treated the case of a solid iron ball, and curiously enough arrived at the result expressed by Biot's law for the distribution of magnetism on the surface of the earth—

$$I = M \sqrt{1 + 3 \cos^2 \theta},$$

and similarly they found that if the earth were electrified to the potential of 10^9 volts relatively to interplanetary space, its magnetisation would be as it is. If the earth were alone on the universe, then by this theory it would have its own magnetic state by virtue of its own electric charge and axial rotation. If other bodies in the universe, however, had their magnetic states too, these would influence the earth's, and hence we should have terrestrial tides and storms of magnetic force such as are known to exist—as, for instance, when changes take place in the sun's atmosphere by approach of planets or other causes. Lastly, the iron in the interior of the earth may give it a certain amount of coercitive force; but the theory does not rest on this.—Dr. J. Hopkinson then read an account of some experiments with the quadrant electrometer, which showed that Clerk-Maxwell's formula for the sensibility of the electrometer $(A - B) \left(C - \frac{A + B}{2} \right)$, where

A and B are the potentials of the two pairs of quadrants, and C the potential of the needle, only holds good when C (the charge of the jar or needle) is less than 200 Daniell elements. Above that a different law appears to hold. Dr. Hopkinson also remarked that any degree of low sensibility down

to zero could be got from the electrometer by connecting a condenser to each pair of quadrants and adjusting their capacities.—Mr. F. D. Brown described his apparatus for maintaining constant temperatures and pressures. A constant temperature can be obtained if the pressure can be kept constant. The vessel in which the constant pressure is desired communicates with an air pump by a pipe in which a moveable tap or valve is placed. By opening or closing this tap, the pressure is regulated. This is effected by an electric clutch arrangement. A mercury anemometer sends a positive or negative current from a battery through the clutch according as the pressure is too high or low, and this current actuates the clutch to close or open the valve. The clutch consists of an axle driven by a turbine to get power to work the valve, and the current by means of electro-magnetism connects the tap to the axle, which then opens or closes it as the case may be. In this way a pressure varying no more than one-fifth millimetre each way can be obtained.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—(Monday, March 10.)

SIR RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, K.C.B., in the Chair. A paper was read by Dr. James Stewart “On the Second Circumnavigation of Lake Nyassa,” and the modifications brought to light in the topography and position of the lake were exhibited by means of the two resulting maps placed side by side. The effect of the more recent survey is to shift the position of the lake twenty-four miles further to the west. The paper also comprised notes made during an itinerary along the western shore of the lake. The exploring party wished to convey Capt. Elton and his followers to the northern end of the lake, whence they eventually made their way overland to the west coast, Capt. Elton, unhappily, dying *en route*. Another object of Dr. Stewart's party was to make a closer examination of the northern end of the lake. They started in a steamer called the *Ilala* from Livingstonia, the mission headquarters, at the southern extremity of the lake, on September 17, 1877, and after crossing the lake, and touching at various points, notably at Mount Waller, which proved to be 4,000 feet above the level of the lake, and in the vicinity of which they discovered gold, they re-crossed the lake and reached its northern extremity on October 12. Here they discovered a river, called the Rombusha, flowing into the lake, as well as a lagoon capable of sheltering vessels from the force of the wind, which is here considerable, as it sweeps up the lake from the south across its expanse of about 350 miles. It was now possible, Dr. Stewart continued, to steam from one end of the lake to the other in forty or fifty hours, and with the exception of a gap, about seventy miles in length, where cataracts intervened, it was possible to sail from the London Docks to the north end of the lake by way of the Zambezi and Shire rivers.—The second paper was by Mr. James Stephenson, and gave an account of travels in the vicinity of the lake and of some visits to native chiefs.

FINE ART.

Essays on Art. By J. Comyns Carr. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

It is seldom that a book is published in which we can recognise so clearly as in this of Mr. Comyns Carr the two essential qualities of the best kind of art-criticism—a clear perception of the aims and limitations of art in general, and a power of extracting from any given work of art its own peculiar savour, of “disengaging its virtue,” as Mr. Pater would say. The power of doing this last in a convincing way, in a way at once original and free from eccentricity and self-will, is given to few critics in any country, and to fewest perhaps in our own. Mr. Carr has much of this power, and he has schooled it by careful study. These smooth, well-jointed essays could not have been built up except on a foundation of patient work, not only such as is revealed by the papers on the drawings of Old

Masters in the British Museum, but such as has served to make the author familiar with the best that criticism has said in other times and places. To be learned and yet to keep his learning in the background is most necessary for the critic of art, and it is a task in which few succeed so well as Mr. Carr.

The book is divided into chapters which deal with "Art and Literature," and with "The Ideals of Art:" a division made, apparently, in order to find room for the essay on "The Artistic Spirit in Modern English Poetry." Readers would have been sorry to miss this essay, but it cannot be denied that it is not quite of a piece with those which follow. Moreover, the division implies a semblance of exact classification which is not desirable in such a volume, and to which, as it seems to us, the substance of the several essays hardly answers. "The Ideals of Art" may be a very proper title for papers like those on Corot and Millet, but not for such a simple sketch as that in which Mr. Carr describes the portfolios of English drawings in the Museum. This, however, is a small matter. Under whatever name he chooses to group them, his essays have a distinct value: sometimes as merely making known the treasures of the unexplored Print Room, sometimes as dealing in a more comprehensive way with the work of single artists. The longest of the essays on "Art and Literature" is that on William Blake, suggested apparently by the exhibition of Blake's drawings held a few years ago at the Burlington Club. In this admirable paper we have a completely successful defence of Blake against the hasty criticism which would condemn him out of hand because his drawing is not academical and some of his poetry not intelligible; and Blake is used as a happy illustration of the difference between the fields of art (*i.e.*, fine art, for so the word is always used in these essays) and poetry:—

"To the poet who has to mould the intellectual material of language to the uses of beauty, the logical faculty is as indispensable as the imaginative gift. He may dwell on the sensuous and figurative element in language; but this sensuous element must subserve the logical, and the verse must satisfy the conditions of intellectual expression before it can find its way to delight the sense of music or form or colour. In Blake the logical faculty was from the first feeble, and grew gradually weaker as his brain became thronged with images that overpowered his resources. . . . He endeavoured, in fact, to use words as though they were distinct images endowed with sensuous form and colour. And to those who have tried to fathom the Prophetic Books, it will seem plain that to him they were so. His verse is a piece of elaborate symbolism, to which he alone possessed the key; and for every word that now stands as a puzzle to all readers, there existed in his brain a radiant image robed in lovely colour and fixed in determined line. Hence we have in Blake the exact converse of the common failure of modern art. Instead of trying, as so many of our painters have done, to use the material of art as if it could be moulded by the intellectual processes of language, he strove to invade the realm of the poet with the instruments of painting, and to employ words as if they were fixed symbols, fair for the eye to see."

It may be added that this essay contains a long criticism of the marvellous book in the

possession of Mr. Bain, Blake's illustrations to Young's *Night Thoughts*.

The account of the drawings in the British Museum—an account chiefly reprinted from a newspaper—does not suggest so much to the reviewer as do some other papers. It passes too rapidly over immense regions of art; a paragraph disposes of Mantegna, and Raphael himself is summarised in three or four pages. It is difficult, too, to say anything new on these great names, and what the essays do is rather by way of indicating what the student ought to go and see than by way of discovering new elements in the genius, for example, of Lionardo. Still there is a firm touch about the criticism which gives to this series of papers a quality of their own. We might select from them the remarks on Titian and the "spirit of portraiture" that animated the Venetians; on Velasquez and his unapproached simplicity of style; on the drawings of Claude, which reveal in him a side that his paintings seem studiously to conceal; and on Rubens. Two little points occur to us in connexion with this chapter. Mr. Carr speaks of Bartholomew Beham as the "relative" of Hans Sebald; has he any reason to doubt the common belief, confirmed by Mr. Loftie in his catalogue, that they were brothers? Again, with regard to Holbein's drawings of jewels, &c., it might have been remarked that they have been photographed and published by the Science and Art Department.

The later essays deal with more modern work; with Corot and Millet, with Frederick Walker, with Cruikshank, and with "three English sculptors," of whom one, Alfred Stevens, is only now beginning to be appreciated. The papers on the two French painters and on the Englishman who had so much in common with one of them are perhaps the best things in the book; the knowledge which they reveal is as thorough as in the earlier essays, and they deal with subjects less well-worn and more closely related to the life and the ideas of the present. A happy contrast with Constable (to whom Mr. Carr does fuller justice than Mr. Ruskin can ever be induced to do) marks out the distinctive quality of Corot's art—a lyrical quality, if we may so render the painter's judgment of himself: "Je ne suis qu'une alouette; je pousse de petites chansons dans mes nuages gris." Constable, on the other hand, is "essentially dramatic;" he gives us "an impartial selection from the moods of landscape;" in him "the particular moment chosen for artistic expression is like a moment chosen from a drama where the passion, though strong and energetic, is not the passion of the author."

"Constable perceived and interpreted the drama of wind and clouds, of sun and shadow. But to Corot these changing aspects of the earth are serviceable only as interpreters of different phases of personal emotion. The artist employs the moods of nature as a musician employs the notes of music, and invests the facts of scenery with particular sentiments, charging them with the colour of his own thoughts."

Corot is contrasted, further on, with Jean-François Millet, a painter of tragic power, and endowed at the same time with that grace, that "sweetness coming out of

strength," that has been found in Michelangelo. Mr. Carr's account of Millet's masterpiece, *Le Semeur*, is an instance of a vivid and true description of a notable work. Millet saw the "hopeless uneventful toil" of the peasant's lot; Walker, who is in many ways so much like him, saw this too, but saw also and especially "the grace that attaches to all the expressive attitudes of toil." This again is excellent criticism—this, and the manner in which Walker's "deeper reality" is shown in opposition to William Hunt's work (and the same might be said of almost all our rustic painters of thirty years ago), an example of "sincere and accurate observation" as far as it went, but of observation from the outside, and hence superficial, and therefore false. It is this profound modernness in Frederick Walker that makes his early loss the most grievous, perhaps, that English art has suffered during this generation.

There is much in these essays on which we have not been able to touch, but enough has been said to show that they are a real addition to critical literature. There is nothing epoch-making in the book, but it is the work of a thoroughly educated mind, unprejudiced in favour of one school against another, and able, as we said, to extract from each its virtue. Modern art-criticism of the better kind is too apt to go off either into over-erudition or over-refinement; and it is rare indeed to find, as we find in Mr. Carr, adequate learning and a fine appreciation controlled by a perfectly sane judgment. He reminds us in some ways of Fromentin; and he will admit that we could hardly pay him a higher compliment. T. H. WARD.

GERMAN IMPERIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

At the meeting of February 14 Dr. Schmidt, who has gained some reputation by a recent work on the subject of the *Augustales*, presented to the audience a design from a marble rilievo exhibited for some time at the Campidoglio Museum, on which some apes are represented. Dr. Schmidt, with reference to this, took occasion to mention a great number of antique works in which these animals are introduced.

Dr. Bormann, after presenting a facsimile of a stone examined by him at the Palazzo di Propaganda Fide, on which may be read the complete form of an inscription published, with some portions defective, in vol. vi. of the *Corpus*, gave an excellent discourse upon the *damnatio memoriae*, recurring to times most celebrated for the issue of decrees having for their object the obliteration from monuments of the names of the persons execrated. The age of Caracalla has naturally furnished Dr. Bormann with the largest contribution of materials. He stated that the obliteration of names was carried out, not only upon stones, but even upon the stamps on bricks; and with reference to this subject he repeated the observations of Dr. Dressel, published in a recent work, "*Ricerche sul Monte Testaccio*" (*Annali dell' Istituto di corrispondenza archeologica*, 1878, p. 144). He went on to observe that while in private monuments the stones were left with the erasure, without the substitution of other words in the place previously filled by the name of the emperor, or the person of execrated memory, with public monuments the case was different. It was necessary to substitute some words which should exactly occupy the space of those cancelled. An example of this is presented by the inscription on the arch of Septimius Severus, near the church of S. Giorgio al Velabro, where, in lines three, four,

and five, words may be observed which have been substituted for those erased. Dr. Bormann, in the *Bullettino Inst. Archeologico*, 1867, p. 218, published the names which were to be read in the first form of the inscription, and his reasons, based upon historical grounds, were undeniably excellent. He has not, however, been content with obtaining this victory, but has had recourse to fresh weapons in order to combat the edicts of Caracalla, and to display their absurdity. He has, in fact, found material proofs for the restoration of the inscriptions. He stated that in triumphal arches, and other monuments of great size, the inscriptions were formed of bronze letters inserted into the marble, and secured by nails. When the obliteration of any part was decreed, however deeply the marble might be cut down, it was impossible to get rid of the holes caused by the nails used for the first inscription; and thus, taking into account the nails necessary to secure the new letters, and also keeping count of the number of nails used in each particular letter, it becomes possible by this simple clue to read once more the old inscription—that is to say, by the guidance of the holes made by the nailing on of the original bronze letters. For the more ready comprehension of his audience Dr. Bormann displayed an alphabet with indications of the points at which the holes were pierced in each letter. This alphabet has been derived from a study of the letters composing the inscription on the arch of Septimius Severus at the Foro Romano. By this examination he has demonstrated that the fourth line of the inscription reproduced in volume vi. of the *Corpus* (No. 1033), where we read, "Optimis fortissimisque principibus," originally stood thus:—"P. Septimio Getae nobilissimo Caesari." Dr. Bormann's discourse was much applauded.

Dr. Klügmann subsequently spoke on the subject of two Etruscan mirrors in the collection of Signor Alessandro Castellani. On one of these is represented a Diana riding on a doe; on the other are portrayed the divinities Tina, Lasa, and Mers.

At the meeting of February 21, Dr. von Duhn brought forward the first two volumes of the *Documenti inediti*, published under the superintendence of the "Direzione Generale dei Musei e degli Scavi" (see ACADEMY, February 1, 1879), and spoke with much commendation of the work, which will prove most useful in restoring the history of various antiquarian collections. He then exhibited some marble fragments belonging to the Danish sculptor Jerichau, whose studio is in Rome. These fragments consist of (1) a bearded head, resembling the Asiatic bearded Dionysos, akin to the heads of Dionysos from Cyprus, collected by Cesnola; (2) a bicipital Hermes, bearing on one side the head of Saturn, on the other a portrait, which Von Duhn believed to be that of the Emperor Carus, stating that, with the exception of the coins of Commodus, representations of the *felicitas temporum*, with the four Genii of the Seasons, are continually seen; which proves that it was desired to commemorate the happy times of Saturn. Dr. Helbig, however, considers the artistic merit of the work too high for the times of Carus, and he rather inclines to recognise in it the portrait of the emperor Philip the Arabian, and to consider the other head a representation of Numa. A second Hermes bears on one side Hercules as a youth, crowned with vine-leaves; on the other, at the back, a female head. A fragment of a sepulchral bas-relief with the *dia m[anibus]* represents a veiled woman in a stooping attitude, advancing to meet a smaller female figure; as in the marble of the Lateran Museum, on which a similar veiled woman approaches a door where she is awaited by five men. In the new marble is represented a maiden receiving her deceased mother. Finally, a small figure of a *panisca* suckling a *panisco*, considered by Von Duhn as the only similar representation hitherto known. Dr. Bormann took the opportunity for a fresh discourse on the in-

scription 329 of volume vi. of the *Corpus Inscr. Lat.* This inscription, published according to ancient transcriptions, is not in agreement with the original, which Bormann has discovered in the courtyard of the Palazzo di Propaganda Fide. He recognises it as two iambic trimeters, and reads thus:—

"Hercules invicta, Silvani nepos,
Hic advenisti, ne quid hic fiat mali,"

which lines were recognised by Prof. Bücheler as a transformation of two Greek iambic verses:—

ὁ τοῦ Διὸς παῖς, καλλίνικος Ἡρακλῆς,
ἐνθάδε κατοικεῖ μηδὲν εἰσὶν αὐτῷ κακόν.

This "Hercules, Silvani nepos," is certainly very extraordinary, and Dr. Bormann explained it as referring to the Emperor Commodus, who was officially styled Hercules, was represented as Hercules on coins, and caused a statue in the likeness of Hercules to be erected to himself. Dion relates that Commodus removed the head of the colossus of Nero, putting a portrait head of himself in its stead, and caused the verses mentioned above, with a slight modification, to be inscribed beneath it. According to this explanation, the formula G P R F, occurring at the end of the inscription No. 329, should be read G[enio] P[opuli] R[omani] F[elicitate].

With regard to the words *Silvani nepos*, reference should be made to the marble busts of the Villa Albani, on which mention is made of the *Collegium Silvani Aureliani*—that is, the gladiators who inhabited the house of Commodus, and whose tutelary deity was Silvanus. As the emperor himself assumed the gladiatorial character, Silvanus would naturally become his patron also.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Signor Fontenay, a French archaeologist, exhibited some fragments of antique glass.

NOTES FROM ROME.

On the morning of March 3, in the presence of Commendatore M. Coppino, Minister of Public Instruction, and of Commendatore G. Fiorelli, Director General of Museums and Excavations, a course was opened for the water which since 1875 has been stagnant in the lowest portion of the Colosseum. Everyone knows what strife and discussions were awakened by the excavations of the Colosseum, and by this water, which was considered so injurious to the public health. This is not the place to repeat the now antiquated story of the origin of the excavations; nor is it necessary to record that the Italian Government, unwilling to sustain any longer the enormous expense of keeping the place dry by means of an engine, decided to allow the water to reach its natural level, and to suspend the excavations until some means could be found of giving it a natural outlet. As it was not considered convenient to seek for the ancient conduit, it being apparently proved that the work of discovering and cleansing it would be far more costly than the making of a fresh one, it was thought advisable to act in concert with the municipal authorities, in order that while the administration of the Commune was conducting the works for the construction of the watercourse for the new quarters of the Esquiline, the new drain reaching to the plain of the Colosseum should from that point to the Tiber, along the Via di San Gregorio and the Via dei Cerchi, descend to a sufficient depth to receive the water of the Colosseum. The expense of the work was estimated at 400,000 lire, of which the Government was to contribute about 100,000. But in addition to this the Government had also to consider the cost of making at its own expense the channel of communication with the new drain to the Colosseum, for which 50,000 lire would have been barely sufficient. The municipal works, starting from the Tiber, having reached the Arch of Constantine, the engineer of the Commune, Signor Narducci, thought he could distinguish among the

numerous ancient constructions the one which in his opinion belonged to the principal drain of the Colosseum. Commendatore Fiorelli gave orders for clearing out this ancient aqueduct, and, to the surprise of all, it soon became evident that with little labour and small cost a way was thus opened into the Colosseum in front of the Temple of Venus and Rome. Besides the saving of not a little time and expense, the advantage of utilising a construction of great solidity has thus been obtained. The writer of this article has descended into the subterranean passage, where he could perceive the velocity with which the water flowed away. In the cleansing of this ancient sewer from the Colosseum to the Arch of Constantine many bones of animals have been found. Those of horses and dogs are numerous, and there are a considerable number of those of bears, more than six bears' skulls being found. The remains of the skeleton of an ostrich were also observed. Together with the bones were found earthenware lamps, hair-pins, fragments of glass, three small bronze buckets, and a marble head in very good preservation, representing a child, perhaps the portrait of some youthful Caesar. Above the right ear the votive lock of hair is left. It is said to be the desire of the Minister of Public Instruction that the remains of bones, with the other fragments found, should be exhibited in an ambient of the Colosseum itself.

In the works for the foundation of the new Politeama, between the Vie Torino and Firenze, Nazionale and Strozzi, in the new quarters of Rome, at the depth of ten metres below the present surface of the ground, a marble statue has been found, which is a reproduction of the *Hermaphrodite* of the Villa Borghese and the Louvre. It is in perfect preservation. Close by has been found the statue of a genius for a fountain, and remains of columns and architectural ornaments.

DRAWINGS OF MR. HENRY DAWSON.

THE Fine Art Society have opened, in the gallery behind their shop in Bond Street, an interesting show of water-colour drawings by a man whose work in water-colour has hardly before now been seen or known about. Indeed, the oil pictures of the late Mr. Henry Dawson, though they have been during the last few years gradually commanding a higher price in the market, have not been very visible at public exhibitions; and his water-colours are to many a surprise. They are without any striving after a sensational effect, and also without the mannerism into which the persistent adherence to a given style is somewhat apt to degenerate. Most of them record no exceptional aspects of nature or English landscape, but are rather remarkable for the sincere force and unaffected fidelity with which they record many common aspects of common English things. Mr. Dawson, more than most of his contemporaries, appears (and especially in his water-colour drawings) to have recognised the place which the ugly and mechanical constructions of modern times—the mill, the mill chimney, the railway line, and the cast-iron bridge—are destined to play in English scenery; and, instead of continuing the too frequent attempt to banish them from art as material too hopelessly unpicturesque and unromantic, he has striven, it would seem, to take them much as they occur, painting them, as he would paint nature itself, in the most favourable moment and mood. His drawings range in subject from graceful studies of tranquil and secluded streams to matter-of-fact representations of English mill and factory and farm buildings. The draughtsmanship, albeit of masculine character, is not invariably accurate, but the work has often the appearance of great freshness and sincerity of impression: the atmospheric effects, in their variety and freedom, as well as in their openness, do something to recall the success of our

elder and simpler masters of water-colour. The little exhibition is held for the benefit of an artistic charity with which many sympathise, and a stray half-hour spent among Mr. Dawson's drawings need not be regretted, even amid the pressure of a season in which engagements are wont to multiply.

ART SALES.

ON Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, of last week, Messrs. Christie, Manson and Woods were occupied in selling the art possessions of Lord Lonsdale. The sale was very great in respect of quantity—especially as concerns *objets d'art* as distinguished from pictures—and in quality it was at least interesting. Indeed the sale was the first great one that has occurred this season, and nothing fixed to take place on this side of Easter is likely to engage as much attention. The furniture and the china were the most generally scrutinised, but much of the former, though undoubtedly brilliant, was not of an order that is especially sought for by the English collector. Of the china there was an exceedingly abundant display, rich especially in Sèvres, Dresden, and Chelsea. It has been stated, and we believe correctly, that some of the Chelsea was among the finest of its kind.

The following is a list of a few of the art-objects in furniture and porcelain which it is desirable to note in a sale that attracted so much public interest, before we pass to the pictures:—A pair of celadon-green bottles, formed as double fish, 100*l.* (Wertheimer); another pair, 90*l.*; an old Dresden dinner service fetched over 280*l.*; it was sold in separate pieces, of which each piece realised from 7*l.* to 27*l.*. An old Dresden service painted with birds and insects fetched 110*l.* (Wertheimer); an old Dresden tea service painted with flowers and garden scenes, 131*l.* (King); an old Dresden dinner service of 107 pieces, 275*l.* (Wertheimer); a chocolate pot and cover, and twelve cups and saucers, 84*l.*; a white Sèvres dinner service with gilt borders, 105*l.*; a white Sèvres tea service, 47*l.*; a pair of vases of gros bleu Sèvres porcelain, 152*l.* 5*s.*; a rose du Barry Sèvres cabaret, beautifully painted, 845*l.* 5*s.* (Currie). An old Chelsea tea service of twenty-two pieces, sold separately, with deep blue bands, richly gilt, and painted with exotic birds, reached the sum of 841*l.*; five two-handled old Chelsea cups and saucers, 48*l.* 6*s.*; a pair of old Chelsea plates, 41*l.*; a fine square-shaped vase, deep blue ground, with four medallions of Chinese figures and others of exotic birds, twenty-one inches, 506*l.* (Wareham). Of Crown Derby, we note a beautiful dessert service, painted with landscapes, 269*l.* 17*s.* (Agnew). Among the furniture, there should be named a pair of French tulip wood and marqueterie cabinets, 52*l.* 10*s.*; an oblong-shaped Louis Quinze inkstand, 68*l.* 2*s.*; an oblong casket of old black buhl, 295*l.*; an old French tulip wood casket, 87*l.* 13*s.*; a Louis Quatorze marqueterie writing-table, mounted with ormolu, 69*l.*; a buhl clock, mounted with ormolu, 367*l.* 10*s.* (King); a Louis Quinze settee, carved with flowers, and gilded, and covered with old Genoa silk-velvet, 89*l.* 5*s.*; a pair of black buhl terminal pedestals, 183*l.* 15*s.* (Wertheimer); another pair, 651*l.* (Wertheimer); a Louis Quinze cartonniers of tulip and king wood mounted with ormolu of scroll design, 168*l.*; a pair of small cabinets of old Japan black and gold lacquer, 162*l.* 15*s.* (King); a Louis Quatorze buhl commode, 89*l.* (Durlacher); an old English Bonheur du jour cabinet, 52*l.* 10*s.*; a casket of tortoise-shell, 273*l.*; a set of eight carved and gilt square-backed chairs, covered in fine old Genoa velvet, 94*l.* 10*s.*; a looking glass in fine old frame of tortoise-shell, 85*l.*. The furniture reached a total of 19,336*l.*

THERE were but few pictures the property of Lord Lonsdale, though some of these few were for certain reasons remarkable. Two architectural

subjects by Pannini were fairly typical of his style, and they sold at prices not amiss for such cold and unemotional art. For a thousand guineas there was sold a most important picture by a painter of certainly not more than the second rank—the Dutchman Moucheron. The elaborately ordered and sunny landscape belonging to Lord Lonsdale can hardly ever have been surpassed by this master. The travelling figures were introduced, as was sometimes his wont, by Adrian Van de Velde. Lord Lonsdale's *Claude* found a purchaser at the sum of 183*l.*. Among the English pictures, we notice that the uncomely portrait of *George the Fourth* upon a sofa, painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence, was disposed of for the sum of seventy-five guineas—a sum which would have startled the last generation, which doted upon the canvases of the painter. The two examples of Sir Joshua Reynolds, whatever they may have been in their prime, were not, when they made their appearance at Christie's, very brilliant representations of the master's work. The *Laughing Girl* sold for 1,365*l.*, and the *Robinetta* for 1,050*l.*. There was a fine landscape and animal subject from the hand of Gainsborough. It was styled *Horses Watering at a Trough*, and represented somewhat simply, as its name implies, horses in act to drink. But not only was the action of the horses fine and spirited, but the landscape was suggested with something of Gainsborough's poetical power. The work was evidently of his later time, when he was emancipated from the traditions of laborious imitation of Nature. This interesting and significant, if not altogether satisfactory example of a great English master, sold for 1,365*l.*. There remain to be mentioned briefly the four drawings by Peter de Wint, which drew the attention of many lovers of that artist to the sale. The scale of these drawings was very considerable, and their style unusually elaborate. They were, in fact, highly-finished work, executed probably on commission, and were drawn with all De Wint's science, though with something less than his usual vividness of impression. *Lancaster*, on the whole, was the most successful of the four. It was remarkable for fine and studied composition and for accurate portrayal of every feature of the scene. The sum of 1,417*l.* was paid by Mr. Vokins for this drawing. The drawing of *Whitehaven* was hardly less desirable if an example were wanted of De Wint's occasional mastery over intricacy of grouping, and over a patient realisation of the lines of English landscape, such as seldom came within the aim of his art. The *Whitehaven* fell to Mr. Agnew's bid of 735*l.*. A colder drawing—that of *Teckesbury*—with singular beauty of arrangement in the foreground of arched bridge, damp herbage, and passing herd of cattle, did not pass beyond the sum of 630*l.*; while the last of the four drawings—the design of Lowther—reached 677*l.*. It was undoubtedly a strong drawing, though its colour was, perhaps, unpleasantly hot. These were not, perhaps, upon the whole quite as fine examples of the more elaborate art of Peter De Wint as two or three which have on other occasions been visible. Their great qualities, both of form and atmosphere, are undeniable; but it is probable that the more impulsive sketches of De Wint—the more spontaneous records of his vision of Nature in simple places—will continue to have the chief fascination for many students of his work.

ON Saturday, after the sale of the pictures from the collection of Lord Lonsdale, Messrs. Christie sold the collection of pictures belonging to Baron Heath, Italian Consul-General. They were numerous, but very mixed in quality, and do not call for further record at this time.

NOTES ON ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY.

THE South Kensington Museum has lately acquired a fine example of Italian decorative sculpture which the learned mostly agree in at-

tributing to no less a master than Donatello. It is a sarcophagus of grey stone carved at each end with the figure of an angel, while at the top a female figure, draped and of life-size, is recumbent. This sarcophagus has been put to rough service. It appears to have been turned upside down and used as a drinking-trough for horses, a roughly cut hole through which water has run probably for centuries having been made in it for this purpose. It was discovered at Padua, in a place where no one had suspected its value, and was found, after all its base usage, to be very little injured, for the sculpture being in very low relief, as is often the case in works of this sort, was less liable to damage than a more projecting surface.

THE Rev. Dr. Hooppell, of Byers Green, Durham, lately read a paper at a meeting of the British Archaeological Association, expressing his belief in the genuineness of the so-called Christian relics recently found at South Shields. One of these is a jet tablet representing a falling human figure with a small head, and below the words "Insidiis Diaboli." The doctor ingeniously interprets this to represent an apostate Christian falling from heaven to hell, while the smallness of the head intimates the stupidity of those who exchange light for darkness. Ingenious, truly; but the ingenuity would have been better employed on other objects than these, which competent judges pronounce to be merely clumsy forgeries.

MR. MADOX BROWN has just completed his first cartoon for the series of frescoes—to which we have previously referred—in the great room of the Manchester Town Hall. The subject, illustrative of the introduction of Christianity, is the baptism of King Edwin of Northumbria and Deira—the State to which Manchester belonged—at the instigation of his wife, Queen Ethelberga, daughter of Clovis of France. The artist has followed the minute description given by Bede with due archaeological correctness. The church—a rudely-constructed wooden building, hastily erected for the occasion on the remains of a Roman tessellated pavement—is well adapted to the elongated and somewhat unpromising shape of the spaces allotted for the frescoes. The portion of the church arranged for the baptismal ceremony, being railed off, allows the group of the king and officiating priests to fill one end of the composition, while the queen with her young daughter and a kneeling sister occupy the other; repose being given to the treatment of the spectators in the intermediate background by the tapestry-covered railing in front of them. The early Saxon architecture with rude wooden columns and arrow-shaped windows, and the Roman-Saxon town seen through them, half hidden by a spreading yew, give space with interest and beauty to the distance; the subject itself being one specially adapted for beauty with dramatic interest, with its young Saxon king, French queen and child, Italian priests and chorister boys. This highly-finished cartoon, with its deep tone and full relief, gives ample promise of colour. The composition comprises about twelve principal figures and many others.

MR. FRANCIS MARCET, F.R.S., has presented to University College, London, a cast of the torso of Venus found some twenty years ago in the gardens of Sallust. The torso itself passed through various hands, and about five years since was concealed in a cellar, whence it was bought last year by M. Duval for the Geneva Museum. Through his influence Mr. Marcet has been allowed to have a cast of the torso taken for University College, where it has been placed in the Slade School.

THE Director of the National Gallery, in his annual report just issued, includes the following pictures among his purchases out of the Government grant last year:—*Mary Magdalene approaching the Sepulchre*, by Giovanni Girolamo Savoldo (350*l.*); *St. Helena*; *Vision of the Invention of the Cross*, by Paul Veronese (3,465*l.*);

The Agony in the Garden, Umbrian School (2,000l.); *The Adoration of the Magi*, attributed to Lippi or Botticelli (800l.); *The Nativity*, by Sandro Botticelli (1,500l.); a portrait by F. Bigio (500l.); *A Snow Scene*, by Mulready (200l.); a landscape, by James Ward, R.A. (1,500l.); a landscape, by W. J. Müller (300l.); and a portrait by Catharina van Hemessen (60l.). Among the purchases out of bequests were landscapes by Old Crome (500l.), and T. Barker (100l.); *A Canon and his Patron Saints*, by Gheeraert David; and Gainsborough's portrait of the Rev. Sir Henry Bate Dudley. The donations included—two water-colour drawings, by William Blake, viz., *David delivered out of many Waters*, and an allegorical composition, representing God the Father, the Transfiguration, &c.; and a marble bust of the donor of the Wynn Ellis collection. The total number of visitors to the galleries in 1878 was 902,162 persons, being an average daily attendance on public days (188 in number) of 4,798. The favourite subjects among the Old Masters for the copyists were:—Greuze's *Girl with an Apple*, and *Portrait of a Girl*, copied 17 times and 15 times respectively; and Sassoferrato's *Madonna in Prayer*, copied 12 times. Among Modern Masters, Sir J. Reynolds' *Heads of Angels* was copied 22 times, Turner's *Old Téméraire* 21 times, Reynolds' *Age of Innocence* 20 times, and Romney's *Lady Hamilton* 16 times.

It appears by the news from Afghanistan in the *Times* of March 3 that "the monotony of standing camp life at Jellalabad has been relieved by excavating some of the underground tumuli in the neighbourhood; and the result is the discovery of some most valuable coins and other curiosities." It is to be hoped that some account will be given of these explorations, so that the result may not simply be the devastation of the tumuli.

THE committee appointed to receive subscriptions for a bust of Mr. William Spottiswoode, to be presented to the Royal Institution as a testimonial of his valuable services as its treasurer and secretary successively, have engaged Mr. Richard Belt as the sculptor.

AN article à propos of the two new catalogues—namely, the catalogue of the Berlin Gallery noticed last week in these columns and the new National Gallery catalogue criticised recently by Mr. Crowe—is contributed to the last number of the *Chronique des Arts* by M. Duranty. The comparison drawn is not in favour of the London work, for, while M. Duranty characterises the Berlin catalogue as "un bel exemple d'amour de la vérité," he has apparently been so overpowered by Mr. Crowe's corrections that, although he quotes in full Mr. Burton's reply, he has not a word of praise for the mass of sound learning which Mr. Wornum's old catalogue really contains. Though a more careful revision has no doubt become necessary, the labour of correction will in this case be very different from that which it has lately been found necessary to bestow on so many catalogues of European galleries. A few misstatements, misplaced dates, and wrong attributions are as nothing compared with the amount of false information to be found in the Louvre, Dresden, Hague, and other catalogues of a few years ago. It is difficult, in truth, unless a revision be made every few years, for a catalogue to keep pace with the new discoveries and new ideas that are constantly being brought forward. Nor is it well for an educational work like a catalogue to adopt these too hastily, for very often it is found that the rejected fact becomes true again when differently viewed in relation to others; and so, as Browning says, it has to be re-stated "to the confusion of somebody else in good time." We hope when a revised edition of the good old catalogue does appear that care will be taken to admit only such facts as can be verified, and such changes of attribution as sound general criticism demands, without seeking to overturn old theories merely on

the strength of the judgment of a few modern critics and experts, as seems to have been too much the fashion of late years on the Continent.

A PUBLIC subscription is to be opened in Paris for the purpose of erecting a statue to Béranger. Victor Hugo is the president of the committee formed for the purpose.

M. R. BISCHOFFSHEIM, the rich Dutch banker, has just presented a portrait of Le Verrier, painted by Giacomotti, to the Observatoire at Paris. M. Bischoffsheim has already distinguished himself by his interest in astronomical discovery and the services which he has rendered to science.

A LARGE collection of early Flemish and later Flemish and Dutch pictures belonging to Herr Mathieu Neven will be sold next week at Cologne. Among the works enumerated are three paintings by Jan Steen, said to be of undoubted authenticity and of the highest quality. Frans Hals, Fabritius, Aart Vander Neer, Mieris, Netscher, Brekelenkamp, and several other Dutch masters, are also cited as being represented by very good examples.

A BEAUTIFUL little poem is given in the *Portfolio* this month in the shape of an etching by Mr. Hubert Herkomer, called *Words of Comfort*. Only an old peasant woman, like some of those we have seen in his *Eventide*, and a young girl sitting together on a rude bench outside their cottage, but the face of the old woman lit up with sudden joy at the words the girl has just read to her, forms a charming contrast to the dreamy beauty of her young companion, who is pondering over the same words, unable to attain to the vivid realisation of her whose pilgrimage is nearly over. Where the sentiment is so truly poetical it seems perhaps unsympathetic to criticise details, but it is impossible not to notice that the girl's foot is drawn ridiculously small. Two other small etchings which deserve mention are also given in the same number. These are by a young Edinburgh artist, Mr. George Straton Ferrier, and have *Fishing Boats* for their subjects. They are chiefly remarkable for the motion and transparency of their rendering of water. So much has been said of the art that we have not much space to give to the literature of the number, but it must be stated that Mr. H. C. Boyes begins a series of what promise to be interesting articles on "Modern Domestic Architecture" with a description of the Red House at Bayswater; Mr. Lang continues his account of Oxford, and Mrs. Charles Heaton finishes her study of Crome.

PROF. SIDNEY COLVIN resumes in *L'Art* of March 2 his series of studies of some of the Maitres-Graveurs of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. He deals in this number with Hans Burgkmair, and four examples of this master's wood-engraving are given, one being a large and curious specimen of chiaroscuro engraving—a portrait of the Nürnberg patrician Jan Baumgärtner, or Paumgärtner, reproduced from a rare print in the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge. Neither this nor the other examples, however, are sufficient to give any adequate idea of Burgkmair's powers as a wood-engraver to those who are unacquainted with his more elaborate productions—the *Triumph of Maximilian*, the *Weiss König*, the *Theuerdank*, &c.

THE charm of the new number of the *Gazette Archéologique* is its phototype plate of the draped torso in the museum of Vienne in France, which the writer of the article, M. Houssaye, very justly compares with the draped figures from the pediments of the Parthenon. Like them it is of Pentelic marble, and was found at Vienne in 1823, but how it had got there is not easy to understand. At all events it is a phenomenon which as yet has no parallel; and no better tribute could be paid to this piece of sculpture than the almost mute admiration with which the French authorities regard it. Another plate in the *Gazette* gives a very forcible etching from a Tanagra terracotta of an aged satyr sitting on rocks, with a

wine-skin for a cushion, and with a statuette of Silenus at his side. M. Trivier, the writer of the article which accompanies it, is not one of those who, like M. Heuzey, search among Tanagra terracottas for figures of Greek deities or legendary persons, but prefers to see in them for the most part merely idealised figures from daily life; and in this case he thinks that the figure is not in reality a satyr, but an actor in the part of a satyr, such as is frequently found among bronze statuettes. Not only is the attitude that of an actor, but the face is that of a mask; while, as M. Trivier points out, the garment worn round the loins would alone show that we have here to do with an actor. A third plate in the *Gazette* gives a delicate engraving from an Athenian Aryballos with a figure of Victory (inscribed ΝΙΚΗ) seated on rocks pensively, as if for the moment out of occupation. Yet the wings are raised to be ready. The other plates are devoted to General Cesnola's Cyprus statues.

MUSIC.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE first production of a symphony by Mr. C. Villiers Stanford was the special feature of last Saturday's concert at the Crystal Palace. Mr. Stanford, who is organist of Trinity College, Cambridge, has done excellent work for music in that town as conductor of the Cambridge University Musical Society. This institution, under his able direction, has brought forward such works as Schumann's music to *Faust* (third part), the same composer's *Paradise and the Peri*, Brahms's *Deutsches Requiem*, *Schicksalslied*, *Rhapsodie*, Op. 53, and other high-class compositions seldom to be heard elsewhere. In the general selection of his programmes, Mr. Stanford shows himself an adherent of the modern German school, and the influence of this school is also to some extent visible in his own compositions. The most important of these are his setting of the 46th Psalm for solo voices, chorus, and orchestra, his incidental music to Tennyson's *Queen Mary*, his Concert Overture written for the Gloucester Festival, and played last season at the Crystal Palace, and the present symphony which gained the second prize offered for competition at the Alexandra Palace in 1876, when the first prize was awarded to Mr. F. W. Davenport, whose symphony was noticed in these columns on the occasion of its performance at the Alexandra Palace (ACADEMY, June 30, 1877).

Mr. Stanford's symphony is in the orthodox four movements, the only variation from the usual form being that the scherzo is replaced by one of the German dances called a "Ländler," a kind of slow waltz. The key of the symphony is B flat; the first allegro, which is preceded by a short introduction, is founded on a theme which bears an unfortunate resemblance to the old Scotch song, "The Campbells are coming." The second subject is musically of much greater value than the first; and the thematic developments of the movement are skilfully constructed. The second movement—the "Ländler" above mentioned—is pleasing in its melody and gracefully treated; the first of the two Trios which it contains is, we think, better than the second, which suffers from too great monotony of rhythm. The slow movement, an *andante tranquillo*, appears to us the weakest portion of the symphony; the themes in themselves are pleasing, but the music is somewhat too diffuse, and it is in parts difficult (at least on a first hearing) to trace the connexion of some of the episodic matter, or to see its relevance to the general feeling of the movement. Probably further acquaintance with the music would render clearer what at present seems somewhat obscure. The vigorous finale is, perhaps, the most effective of the four movements, containing much clever writing. The symphony is well scored for the orchestra, many of the instrumental effects being very happy. As a whole, we doubt whether the

present work will rank as one of Mr. Stanford's best compositions. The more recently-written overture, played last season, appears to us decidedly superior to the symphony. This is as it should be; and it encourages the hope that Mr. Stanford's next work, whatever it may be, will show an advance on anything he has yet done.

The remainder of the concert requires only a record of the pieces given. These were Schubert's *Fantasia in C*, arranged for piano and orchestra by Liszt, and excellently played by Mdlle. Krebs; the overtures to *Der Freischütz* and *Guillaume Tell*; Mendelssohn's "Rondo Capriccioso" for piano solo; and vocal music by Miss Emma Thursby and Herr Henschel.

EBENEZER PROUT.

BOROUGH OF HACKNEY CHORAL ASSOCIATION.

In its choice of works for performance the executive of this society evinces a laudable desire to give due heed to the claims of English composers. In the nature of things it is but seldom that a composition written as an exercise for the degree of Doctor of Music is found worthy of performance or even of publication. The musician anxious for academical honours will strive to infuse as much science as possible into his work, rather than to make a bid for popular favour. Above all must he repress any yearning to appear in an original light. It is his policy to walk humbly in the footsteps of the great masters, not to strike out a new path for himself. In our judgment of Dr. Bridge's oratorio *Mount Moriah*, performed on Monday evening for the first time with full orchestra, it is necessary to take these points into consideration. That is to say, it must be remembered that the composer wrote under certain conditions and was not allowed the free exercise of his imagination. The libretto of the work deals with "the trial of Abraham's faith," and the words are selected exclusively from biblical sources. The language of the narrative in Genesis xxii. is supplemented by various portions of Scripture, these being used either as reflective pieces or put into the mouths of the characters represented. The latter are but four in number, namely, Abraham (bass), Isaac (tenor), the Angel (contralto), and the narrator (soprano); the work of the chorus being purely didactic. It will serve no useful purpose to enter into a minute analysis of the oratorio piece by piece, particularly as it is singularly homogeneous in style. Its strength undoubtedly lies in the choruses, the airs being perhaps open to the charge of want of contrast. Abraham's solo "God is the Lord," may be named as the most vigorous if not the finest of them. Again, the recitatives are lacking in dramatic power. The exclusive use of accompanied recitative is by no means an unmixed good when it leads composers to abandon declamation in favour of rhythmical phrases, lacking in force, though elegant enough as mere music. In the choral numbers, however, we find very much worthy of praise. The promise of the vigorous yet melodious opening chorus, "Blessed is the man," is well maintained throughout; and among the more effective numbers may be named the finely developed fugue "For in the Lord Jehovah," the eight part chorale "The Lord shall preserve thee," and the spirited and richly-scored chorus "Unto the godly there ariseth up light." The orchestration generally is excellent, and while it is never obtrusive, it contains sufficient of variety to be effective. *Mount Moriah* is sound music, and thoroughly English in character. Our modern school of sacred music, founded by Handel, received a transient influence from the writings of Spohr, but a more durable impress from Mendelssohn: and Dr. Bridge's oratorio fairly represents this compound style of art work, though savouring less of the Handelian than of the Mendelssohnian period. The performance on Monday was praiseworthy in every respect. Under the composer's baton the band and

chorus did their work exceedingly well, and due justice was rendered to the solos by Miss Mary Davies, Miss Gertrude Bradwyn, Mr. Harper Kearton, and Mr. Thurlay Beale. The work was warmly received, and at the close Dr. Bridge was recalled to the platform. The second part of the concert commenced with Schubert's unfinished symphony in B minor, and the many beauties of this exquisite fragment were worthily interpreted by the orchestra. Mendelssohn's *Walpurgis Nacht* followed, and this being a work well qualified to display Mr. Prout's choir to the best advantage, the result was a splendid performance. In one respect it was perhaps the most correct rendering of the work ever heard. That is to say, the tempo indicated by Mendelssohn was adopted in every instance, whereas it is customary to take certain of the movements at a slower rate of speed. Why this should be so in the opening chorus it is difficult to say. At any rate the result of Monday's experiment was entirely in favour of the composer. The same cannot be said with regard to the fiery chorus "Come with torches." Mendelssohn has marked this 88 for dotted minims, and at this speed it is impossible for the wind instruments to play all the notes set down for them, and almost impossible for the chorus either to sing with correct intonation or to speak the words with clearness. Without doubt the greatest pains were taken to ensure a faultless performance on this occasion, but the effect was nevertheless blurred and indistinct; and this, although not a point was missed from first to last. It is possible, of course, that the opinion here expressed may not be shared by all who were present in the Shoreditch Hall; and in any case no blame, but rather the reverse, can attach to Mr. Prout for conscientiously endeavouring to carry out the composer's intentions. If, as we contend, Mendelssohn, the most fastidious of musicians, for once miscalculated the effect of his written directions, the fact was worth proving, if only to bring relief to future conductors and to the forces under their control. The next, and last, concert of the present season will take place on May 5, when Sterndale Bennett's *May Queen*, Brahms's *Schicksalslied*, Beethoven's "Leonora overture" (No. 3), and Mr. Prout's minuet and trio for orchestra will be performed.

HENRY F. FROST.

THE high estimation in which the music of Brahms is held among English musicians was sufficiently attested at the third Philharmonic Concert, as Herr Joachim repeated the German composer's violin concerto in the presence of a goodly gathering of representatives of the art. As may readily be supposed, the new work improves with acquaintance; and though we must still hold to the opinion that Brahms has done better things, it cannot be said for an instant that this effort in a hitherto untrodden field of thought is unworthy of his genius. Although the feeling at the close of the performance may be one of chastened enthusiasm, if not of absolute disappointment, the attentive listener will not fail to note many isolated passages of rare beauty. The second subject of the opening movement, and the principal theme of the *adagio*, for example, are in Brahms's most elevated style, and for the sake of these we may be willing to condone many pages of laboured writing, destitute of inspiration or charm. At best, however, the work cannot be considered a *chef d'œuvre*, nor is it likely that it will become a favourite either with violinists or the musical public. The symphonies performed on Thursday were Haydn's in E flat, generally known as No. 8 of the *Salomon* set, and Mozart's "Jupiter." The rendering of the former was by no means commendable, but Mozart's masterpiece went fairly well. The airs selected by Miss Emma Thursby were well calculated to display her command over the upper register of the voice. She sang, in Italian, Mozart's "Marten aller Arten" from *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, and a fine air from Gluck's *La Cithère*

Assiégée. There was an error in the programme with regard to the birth of Gluck. He was born in 1714, not 1700.

THE annual concert, given by Mr. J. B. Welch on Tuesday evening at St. James's Hall, contained as usual some interesting features. Mention may be made of Schumann's beautiful *Neujahrslied* (Op. 144), Brahms's "Ave Maria" for female voices (Op. 12), Gluck's fine scena and chorus from *Orfeo* "Chi mai dell' Erebo," Mr. Arthur Sullivan's bright overture to the fourth act of *The Tempest*, a charming part-song, "Gleich wie der Mond," by Robert Franz, and a scena from Mr. Henry Gadsby's new cantata, *The Lord of the Isles*. Mr. Walter Bache played Weber's *Concertstück*, or rather a revised version of that work, as he made sundry alterations in the composer's text. There was an efficient band and chorus numbering nearly 250 performers, and among the soloists the most acceptable were Miss Annie Marriott, Miss Anna Williams, Mr. Barton McGuckin, and Mr. Frederic King.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

- A Marked Life: or, the Autobiography of a Clairvoyante, by Gipsy, cr 8vo. (S. Low) 5/0
Aristophanes' Birds, with notes by W. C. Green, 12mo (Cambridge Warehouse) 3/6
Aristophanes' Frogs, with Notes, by W. C. Green, 12mo (Cambridge Warehouse) 3/6
Birks (T. R.), Supernatural Revelation: or, First Principles of Moral Theology, 8vo. (Macmillan) 8/0
Birthday Memorial and Daily Text Book, sq (Wesleyan Conference Office) 2/6
Bowen (H. C.), English Grammar for Beginners, 12mo (C. Kegan Paul & Co) 1/0
Brown (R.), Countries of the World, vol. iii, 4to (Cassells) 7/6
Barnard (F. C.), What's the Odds? (Bradbury) 1/0
Causes of the Afghan War: being a Selection of Papers laid before Parliament, cr 8vo. (Chatto & Windus) 6/0
Church Congress held at Sheffield, 1878, 8vo (Simpkin, Marshall & Co) 9/0
Collins (W.), Haunted Hotel, and My Lady's Money, cr 8vo (Chatto & Windus) 6/0
Cortes (J. D.), Essays on Catholicism, Liberalism, and Socialism, new ed., cr 8vo. (Simpkin, Marshall & Co) 3/6
Dwyer (F.), Seats and Saddles, Bits and Bitting, 3rd ed., cr 8vo. (Whittingham) 7/6
Exell (J. S.), Freuch's Commentary on the Book of Exodus, 8vo. (Dickinson) 10/0
Export Merchant Shippers of London, Manchester, &c., 1879, 8vo. (Dean) 12/6
Gebler (K. v.), Galileo Galilei and the Roman Curia, translated by Mrs. G. Sturge, 8vo (C. Kegan Paul & Co) 12/0
Golden Mushroom, new ed., 12mo. (Tract Soc.) 1/6
Gosse (E. W.), Studies in the Literature of Northern Europe, 8vo. (C. Kegan Paul & Co) 12/0
Grant (F. W.), Facts and Theories as to a Future State, cr 8vo. (Holness) 4/6
Gray (J. H.), Journey Round the World, 1875-6-7, 8vo (Harrison) 10/0
Health Primers, No 5: Baths and Bathing, sq (Hardwicke) 1/0
Health Primers, No 6: Personal Appearances in Health and Disease, sq. (Hardwicke) 1/0
Hebert (C.), The Lord's Supper: Uninspired Teaching, 2 vols., 8vo. (Seeley) 28/0
Hope (M.), The Prodigal Daughter, new ed., 3 vols., cr 8vo (Chapman & Hall) 21/6
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